

Barstow Council Suspends Police Chief At His 1-Year Mark As Acting City Manager

Just days after the one-year anniversary of what has been perhaps the most remarkable progression of his career, Barstow Police Chief Andrew Espinoza, Jr. this week was placed on administrative leave from his interim city manager position.

On January 16, 2024, the Barstow City Council as it was then composed voted to appoint Espinoza, who held the title of police chief and

public safety director, to the acting city manager position in the aftermath of Willie Hopkins' departure to accept the position of City Manager in Compton. At that point, Espinoza had been the police chief for two-and-a-half years and had been with the police department for 25 years, having begun his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Barstow Police Department after graduating from the San Ber-

nardino County Sheriff's Department 135th Academy Session.

In appointing Espinoza to what was generally thought would be a position of short duration, the city council bypassed Assistant City Manager Kody Tompkins.

Barstow, like several other San Bernardino County municipalities such as the county seat of San Bernardino, Rialto and Upland, has had less than stellar performance

out of its city managers and some degree of inconsistency and instability in the position, along with difficulty in filling the post on a continuous basis.

With the hiring of Hopkins in September of 2021, following a protracted executive recruitment effort by the retained headhunting firm of Andersen & Associates which had entailed considering the application of 41 candi-

dates for the post, it was thought that the city's managerial inconclusivity was behind it. But his unanticipated leaving had thrown City Hall once more into disarray, and there was a belief that what might occur is that Tompkins would in short order be tapped to ride herd on the city's employees. For that reason, Espinoza was drafted into the temporary manager's position so a the city could

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Some Local Politicians Are More & Some Are Less Than Forgiving And Understanding Of SCE's Line Shut-Offs

Some two dozen San Bernardino County communities sustained power outages during the severe windstorms of earlier this month which resulted in catastrophic fires or historic proportion in the Los Angeles cities and communities of Pacific Palisades, Alta Dena and Eaton Canyon.

Southern California Edison, the utility company which supplies electricity to those areas of Southern California not serviced by the San Diego Gas & Electric, the City of Needles, the City of Colton, the City of Anaheim and the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, engaged in sporadic, varied and intermittent shut offs as power, what the company refers to as public safety power shutoff program.

Those deliberate outages are intended to prevent the sparking of fires by damaged or downed power lines in an area where extremely dry vegetation acts as kindling and prevailing meteorologic conditions will push the fire itself or embers in multiple directions, causing immediate and widespread migration of the flames.

In San Bernardino County, the public safety power shutoff program extended into Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Rosena Ranch, Rialto, San Bernardino, Redlands, Grand Terrace, Yucaipa, Oak Glen, Wildwood Canyon, along Mill Creek, Angeles Oaks, Smi-

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Federal Judge Puts California Officials' Disallowance Of Parent Notification Into Doubt

A federal judge has entered a ruling that brings into question whether California State Law and the efforts by Governor Gavin Newsom, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond requiring teachers and other school district officials from informing parents when their

children are assuming a gender identification at school that is different from their birth or biological gender will pass constitutional muster.

The ruling in a fundamental way boosts the prospects of the Chino Valley Unified School District in its legal battle with Bonta over a policy the district put in place in the Summer of 2023 mandating that district teachers notify parents

when their children are manifesting gender incongruence, i.e., assuming a gender different from the one assigned them at birth.

The board voted 4-to-1 to put that policy in place, doing so over the objections of both Thurmond and Bonta. The state schools superintendent and the state attorney general have both consistently asserted that that students have priva-

cy rights that allow them to prevent their parents from knowing the identity they assume in a public school setting. Because some parents are unaccepting of any deviation from heterosexuality on the part of their offspring and some of those might or would engage in physical, psychological or emotional abuse of their children upon learning of their

gender incongruence, Bonta and Thurmond maintain that revealing to parents how their children are comporting themselves at school, if that behavior includes a reidentification of gender, would be, in Bonta's words, "discriminatory and downright dangerous." Asserting that "nearly half of students who identify as being LBGTQ+ are

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Clayton's Promotional Prospects Progressively Fading Toward Nil

Despite, or perhaps because of some influencers adamantly militating on her behalf, Rochelle Clayton is on the losing end of a progression of sentiment against her aspiration to move into the long-term city managerial post in the county seat.

Clayton's absolute support among the eight elected decision-makers

with the authority to hire the city's top tier employees has dwindled to two. Even though both of her supporters - Mayor Helen Tran and newly-installed Councilwoman Treasure Ortiz remain committed to seeing her shed the qualifiers "acting" and/or "interim" from her current title, past and recent

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Rosena Ranch Resident Details Outage Hazards To The San Bernardino County Board Of Supervisors

Dear San Bernardino County Supervisors,

I am writing to bring to your attention a critical issue that my family and neighbors have been facing due to the extended power outages in our community. In January 2025 alone, electrical power has been shut off for a total of 190 hours (so far) as a precautionary measure due to high winds and fire danger. While I understand the importance of these measures to ensure public safety, the prolonged outages have created severe hardships for vulnerable residents in our area.

In my case, my 80-year-old mother, who is handicapped, relies on an electric chair stair lift to move between levels of our home. She also depends on power for showering, cooking, and accessing her medical alert devices. During the outages, I had no choice but to relocate my family to ensure her safety and well-being.

Additionally, one of my neighbors, who is battling stage 4 cancer, See P 3

A Cautionary Tale On Just Why One Should Read A Contract Before He Signs It

A *Sentinel* reader, a decent, if somewhat gullible chap, was recently in need of some new wheels. He surveyed the offerings at a handful of local car dealerships, at last settling upon a modern vintage used vehicle that had hardly been driven, one with fewer than 8,000 miles on its odometer. To ensure that he was not being taken

advantage of, he took the car out on a test spin, driving to a garage run by a good friend of his. His friend, employing his own expertise and the diagnostic tools that in this day and age are at the ready in the arsenal of any true mechanic, pronounced the car fit in every way.

Back at the dealership, the *Sentinel* reader, hav-

ing settled upon a purchase price of \$22,000, made a down payment of \$3,000. It was established that he owed a balance of \$19,000, and he was handed a four-page contract, the first page-and-a-half of which he had skimmed over. He had satisfied himself with language that he found in the body of the details and fine print that the

contract laid out that he would pay the specified \$19,000 remainder over the course of 36 months, which comported with the representation made by the salesman. Satisfied and looking forward to driving about in what was to him a very nice, and almost new, car, he signed the document and drove off the lot.

About two weeks

later, he received correspondence from the dealership pertaining to the installments he was to be making on a monthly basis over the next three years. There, in very plain language which was not hidden three pages deep in fine print, was the brutal reality he had signed himself into: He was being charged \$13,000 over

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After The Chino Valley Unified School District Passed A Parental Notification Policy In 2023, California's Governor, Legislature, Attorney General, Schools Superintendent & Its Courts Ganged Together To Prevent Its Enforcement *from front page*

considering suicide," Thurmond suggested that students alone had the right to determine when and to whom they were to disclose their gender reidentification.

A little more than a month after the Chino Valley School Board's July 20, 2023 adoption of the policy, just as the 2023-24 school year was getting underway, on August 28, 2023, Bonta, acting in his capacity as California Attorney General, filed a civil suit against the Chino Valley Unified School District, petitioning the San Bernardino County Superior Court to stop enforcement of the notification policy. Bonta asserted that the need to prevent "mental harm, emotional harm and physical harm" to those students who are products of families who are not accepting of their

choice to deviate from their birth or biological gender trumps the right of all parents to be informed of their children's identity choice. "This policy... has no place in California. It has put transgender and gender nonconforming students in danger of imminent, irreparable harm from the consequences of forced disclosures," according to Bonta. Transgender students, as a consequence of the school district action, were, according to Bonta, "under threat" and "in fear," facing "the risk of emotional, physical, and psychological harm from non-affirming or unaccepting parents or guardians." The policy, he said, "unlawfully discriminates against transgender and gender nonconforming students, subjecting them to dis-

parities of those involved.

Mayor Tran, whose first two years in office following her 2022 election have been marred by managerial uncertainty and inconsistency, for months has been heavily banking upon getting Clayton installed as the undisputed city manager so that she can choreograph municipal policy and action to create a record of accomplishment that can be attributed to Tran's administration.

Clayton, who was hired by former City Manager Charles Montoya to serve as deputy city manager in April 2024, the following month was propelled into the role of acting city manager when the council precipitously fired Montoya on May 22.

Over the next four months, Clayton was able to convince not just Tran but all seven members of the council that she was patient enough, energetic enough, devoted enough and competent enough to run San Bernardino County's

parate treatment, harassment, and abuse, mental, emotional, and physical."

On September 6, 2023, San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Thomas Garza granted the State of California a temporary restraining order prohibiting the Chino Valley Unified School District from enforcing the policy.

After Judge Garza's consideration of the early motions made with regard to the case, the matter was transferred to the courtroom of Judge Michael Sachs. Judge Sachs, reacting to Bonta's claim that the district's forced disclosure provisions discriminate against transgender students who are "singled out" and that it ran afoul of California Education Code Sections 200 and 220 and Government Code section 11135 meant to ensure equal rights and opportunities for every student and prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression, perpetuated the restraining order

most populous city, one that has had for decades financial challenges that led to its Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing in 2012, serious proliferation of crime that consistently puts it among the 50 most violent cities in the country, a seemingly intractable problem with homelessness among hundreds of individuals who have taken up residence in the city, social problems exacerbated by rampant drug use/vice activity among a growing segment of the community and crumbling infrastructure.

During a closed session of the council held beyond the scrutiny or earshot of the public on October 2, 2024 the city council unanimously indicated it was amenable to hiring Clayton as the full-fledged city manager.

That led to the formulation of an employment contract with Clayton by which she would begin at an annual salary of \$325,000, subject to an annual cost of living increase tied to the

preventing the policy's enforcement. According to Judge Sachs, the provision of the policy requiring that faculty in essence "out" transgender students to their parents was discriminatory based on sex, violating both the California Constitution' and U.S Constitution's equal protection clauses.

The district and its board backed up and regrouped, and in March 2024 passed a redrafted parental notification requirement that was more general and did not make any specific mention of sexuality or gender, instead requiring that parents be told if the students made any alteration of their school registration records, such as altering their names. As most students engaging in "gender transition" adopt a name traditionally associated with the gender they are adopting, the revamped policy was inclusive of the intent contained in the policy adopted in July 2023 but maneuvered around the legal constraints Bonta,

consumer price index and capped at 5 percent, another \$11,619.95 in perks and pay add-ons and \$115,693.41 in benefits, for an initial total annual compensation of \$452,313.36.

The city council would have voted to officially promote Clayton into the city manager's post and ratify the contract at its regularly scheduled October 16, 2024 city council meeting, but because the city council on that day was engaged in a League of California Cities convention, that meeting was cancelled. The council action to formally commit itself to hiring Clayton was to take place at its first regularly scheduled meeting in November, on November 6, 2024. In the meantime, an additional provision to the contract was added whereby the city was to provide Clayton with a one-time relocation benefit of \$10,000, if she were to move to a residence within the boundaries of the City of San Bernardino within two

years.

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Thurmond and Newsom were attempting to construct.

State officials then moved to preempt parental disclosure altogether by having Assembly Member Chris Ward, D-San Diego, author AB 1955, prohibiting schools from making a practice of notifying parents if their children are assuming a gender different from the one assigned them at birth. The bill was passed by both of California's legislative houses and was signed

into law by Governor Newsom on Monday, July 15, 2024.

Almost as soon as Governor Newsom's signature was dry, the Chino Valley Unified School District and parents Oscar Avila, Monica Botts, Jason Craig, Kristi Hays, Cole Mann, Victor Romero, George Rosca, Jr. and Leslie Sawyer, represented by attorney Emily Ray of the Austin, Texas-based Liberty Justice Center, sued Newsom, Califor-

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years.

Councilman Sanchez had initiated inquiries, capped with the filing of California Public Records Act requests, for information relating to the city's ongoing efforts to obtain state funding for planned homeless assistance programs in the city. Toward the end of October, Sanchez learned through the responses to his filing that less than two months after Clayton had taken on the acting city manager assignment, she had been informed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development that San Bernardino had been selected to receive a \$17 million Homekey grant to pay for a sizeable percentage of a \$24 million homeless shelter the city intends to build on Sixth Street.

Clayton had not informed the city council about the state's offer of the money and, again without informing the council, she notified Sacramento that the city was declining the money.

Sanchez would also learn that the city had under Clayton's watch further failed to lay claim to another \$3 million grant from San Bernardino County to pay for homeless service efforts because the city had not made three adjustments to its planned homeless assistance strategy that would have qualified it to receive the money. When this was brought up for discussion during the closed session prior to the public session at the November 6 council meeting in which Clayton's hiring was to take place, the council elected at that point to pull the ratification of the city manager's contract from the public portion of the meeting agenda, placing her hiring, or at that point possible hiring, into indefinite abeyance.

There ensued a redoubled effort on the part of Mayor Tran to recapture the council consensus to elevate Clayton into full-fledged city manager status. Joining her in this endeavor was then-Sixth

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Clayton Was On The Verge Of Being Set Up As Full-Fledged City Manager In October *from front page*

events have transpired which have created what is described to the *Sentinel* as a "virtually unbridgeable" gap with three of the council members and severely compromised the basis for mutual accommodation between Clayton and a fourth council member. Meanwhile, two of the three newest members of the council whose participation in a coalition that would effectuate Clayton's elevation had been taken for granted, have been exposed to information and experience that have impressed on them that the supposition of comity that was to proceed from cohesion and consensus among no fewer than five of the council and the mayor was not just unrealistic but unworkable, given the conflicting pri-

Why You Might Want To Read A Contract Before You Sign It from front page

and above the total \$22,000 price of the car in exchange for the "privilege" of paying for the car on time.

He consulted with another friend who is good with figures. He was, his friend told him, paying an overall financing rate applied to the full \$22,000 purchase price of 59.09 percent. His friend then offered

Letter To The Board Of Supervisors from front page

relies on an electrical oxygen machine and is without central heating during these outages. The lack of power has exacerbated his already fragile health, and as a result, he has been readmitted to the hospital.

These situations highlight the dire con-

Espinoza Is Very Well-Educated For A Small Town Police Chief from front page

screen either a short or long lists of those to be considered as Hopkins' replacement. Since Tompkins was to be among those considered, it was thought best that he not be moved into the acting city manager slot, lest this lead to the impression that the selection process was being tilted in his favor.

At the same time, Es-

Fontana Dealt With Wind-Precipitated Power Outages from front page

ley Park, Green Valley Lake, Running Springs, Lake Arrowhead, along Shake Creek, Cedar Glen, Blue Jay, Crestline, Cedar Pines Park, Summit Terrace, Lake Silverwood, north of Baldy Village, in Wrightwood, in Deer Haven between Phelan and Pinon Hills north of Wildhorse Canyon and in Chino Hills.

Those outages represented some degree of inconvenience for

to make a comparison of what sort of financing rates are currently available from banks, lending institutions or companies that engage in vehicle financing. When the *Sentinel* reader took his friend up on that offer, he was informed that typically depending on factors which vary such as credit score, loan type, and economic conditions, the average purchaser of a new car would be able to wangle an interest rate at around 4.07 percent yearly and someone buying a used care would be dinged ap-

proximately 8.62 percent annually. Put plainly, in the *Sentinel* reader's case, a bank would have lent him the \$19,000 to pay off the balance for \$4,913.40.

Now enraged, the *Sentinel* reader consulted with a lawyer. The lawyer asked to see the contract. Having been practiced in reading dense and elaborately convoluted text as a consequence of being an attorney, the lawyer was able to maintain his attention on the sense of what the contract covered, from beginning to

sequences of prolonged power outages on vulnerable individuals in our community. I kindly urge the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to explore and implement solutions to mitigate the impact of these outages. Possible measures could include:

- * Providing backup power resources, such as portable generators or battery systems, to resi-

idents with medical and accessibility needs.

those caught in power shut-offs. Many of those weathering the situation and their political representatives accepted that such precautions were needed and the inconveniences part of a trade-off they needed to make to avoid the potential of their homes burning to the ground, as in upscale Pacific Palisades or in Alta Dena or the extreme north of Pasadena. Some public officials made statement calculated steer a middle ground between the utility companies and their executives on one side

and their constituents who went without power on the other.

In Fontana, where the outages were confined for the most part to the north end of the city and did not go on for more than three to four days, Mayor Acquanetta Warren made it sound like everyone – the power companies, the government and Fontana residents are one big happy family who have go each others' backs.

"I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the challenges

even though they were compiled with the relatively small-scale Barstow Police Department. In his quarter of a century as a cop, he was a patrol officer, street detective, major crimes detective, watch commander, range master, special response team operator and commander, patrol division commander and head of the administrative division.

In jumping him up the chain of command to being city manager, the authority of which entails

being the police chief's boss, the city council elected to keep him in the capacity of both public safety director and police chief.

It is of note that there has been a changeover on the city council since January 2024. In November 2024, Mayor Pau Courtney did not vie for reelection and neither did District 4 Councilwoman Marilyn Kruse. They were replaced, respectively, with Tim Silva, a former councilman, and John "Tex"

Williams. Silva and Williams were sworn in in December.

Depending upon who is consulted with for an exposition, either Espinoza or Police Captain Daniel Arthur, who was the administrative division commander under Espinoza has been the department's de facto chief over most of the last the last 12 months.

Reportedly, it is not issues pertaining to the operation of the city and the purview of the city manager or Espinoza's

relating to the distinction between interest and time charges. Practically speaking, he intoned, there is no limit on what a lender can charge a borrower for financing a purchase. Interest is interest, he said, and fees are something else entirely. There is a difference, he said, a legitimate and fully legal difference between the price of something and its time price. The first is the amount of cash it takes to buy something outright on the spot. The second is the purchase price at present together

who are disproportionately affected by these outages. Please let me know how I might be able to assist in any discussions or initiatives to address this urgent issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Marquez

John Marquez is a resident of Rosena

Williams. Silva and Williams were sworn in in December.

Depending upon who is consulted with for an exposition, either Espinoza or Police Captain Daniel Arthur, who was the administrative division commander under Espinoza has been the department's de facto chief over most of the last the last 12 months.

The city is dependent on Southern California Edison for the electricity to run traffic lights. That presented a challenge when the company cut the power, Warren said, but the city and power company worked together toward a solution, she insisted.

"Our public safety and public works crews have been working night and day across the city, addressing wind-related damages, putting out two fully engulfed house fires, cleaning debris from more than 50 reports of downed trees

with the agreed-upon fee the lender will accept and which the purchaser pays together with the interest on that loan over the agreed-upon duration of the loan.

The technical difference[s] between cash price and time price have resulted in the courts consistently ruling that the laws and regulations which attend interest rates are not applicable to finance charges.

It goes without saying, or should, that unless someone actively

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Ranch, a community at the convergence of Lytle Creek to the west and the northern tips of Fontana, Rialto and San Bernardino, near Verdmont, Devore Heights, Muscoy and Arrowhead Farms. The name Rose-na references a livestock and citrus farm that was owned by Azariel blanchard Miller, the founder of Fontana.

function as acting city manager that led to his suspension. Rather, according to information that is both publicly available and those made by confidential sources who sought out the *Sentinel*, it is controversy involving the police department which felled Espinoza this week.

In the course of statements made by Barstow residents E.T. Snell, Melody Walker, Gilbert Asa, Jim Brown and Marsha Wiesman, Espinoza was

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and handling signal light outages," she said.

Everyone needs to remain calm and do what is sensible, Warren said. She did not blame anyone for the handiwork of Mother Nature. "Keep in mind, that until electricity is restored in those areas, those signals will be down," Warren said. "So, please adhere to traffic laws — stop, until it's your turn."

In Grand Terrace, where Southern California Edison has some major storage, switching and transmission facilities

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While California State Officials Have Had Their Way With Parental Rights Advocates In State Court, One Federal Judge Has Been Less Accommodating *from page 2*

nia Attorney General Rob Bonta and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond in an effort to prevent the enforcement of AB 1955.

As this legal back-and-forth has been raging in state court, a federal lawsuit, *Mirabelli vs. Olson*, with implications that not only parallel the issues of contention between Bonta and the Chino Valley Unified School District but replicate them with some level of specificity, is playing out.

In April 2023, Elizabeth Mirabelli and Lori Ann West, middle school teachers in Escondido in San Diego County, represented by the Thomas More Society, a Chicago-based public interest law firm, filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California against the Escondido Union School District Board of Education, the California State Board of Education, the California Department of Education and State Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond over a district policy which required them to dissemble and outright mislead parents when they face a situation in which students have assumed a gender at a variance with their natural sex. Eventually, anonymous plaintiffs Jane Boe and Jane Roe, two other teachers in the district, and John and Jane Doe and John and Jane Poe, the parents of school-age students in the Escondido Union School District, joined with Mirabelli and West as plaintiffs in the suit. Mark Olson is the president of the Escondido Union School District Board of Education. Thus the short title of that litigation is *Mirabelli vs. Olson*.

Their lawsuit stated teachers were required to use “any pronouns or a gender-specific name requested by the student during school, while reverting to biological pronouns and legal names

when speaking with parents in order to actively hide information about their child’s gender identity from them.”

Mirabelli and West contended in the suit that their First Amendment rights were violated by the district in its requirement that they either lie to parents outright or prevent the parents from learning the truth.

Judge Roger Benitez is the federal magistrate hearing the case in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in San Diego.

In September 2023, Judge Benitez entered a finding that the teachers’ religious beliefs and free speech rights were violated by the Escondido Union School District’s policy, and wrote that students in the position of being caught between attending school using one gender identity while maintaining a different gender identity at home would be harmed because they need “parental guidance and possibly mental health intervention to determine if the incongruence is organic or whether it is the result of bullying, peer pressure, or a fleeting impulse. Parental involvement is essential to the healthy maturation of schoolchildren. The Escondido Union School District has adopted a policy without parent input that places a communication barrier between parents and teachers.”

The court granted Mirabelli and West a preliminary injunction against the district policy.

Revealed during the course of Mirabelli’s and West’s litigation was that school staff and teachers at the school where they taught were sharing with one another lists of students that essentially revealed which students at the school had changed gender, as those lists provided the names and pronouns teachers should use when dealing with the students in the edu-

cational setting and the other names to use when communicating with parents. One exhibit presented in the *Mirabelli vs Olson* case, a 2022 email, demonstrated many parents were unaware of their students’ preferred names and pronouns.

In his response to Mirabelli’s and West’s contentions, Bonta adhered primarily to the position he had taken in the cases involving the Chino Valley Unified School District in which he is both a plaintiff and a defendant, maintaining that an open disclosure policy is potentially harmful to children who are transitioning their gender and that a school district maintaining a stance of protecting the privacy of students will shield them from harm.

Bonta made a series of motions to dismiss the entirety of the *Mirabelli v. Olson* case, arguing that the Escondido School District’s parental exclusion policies were merely “a suggestion” and had therefore not harmed the teacher-and-parent plaintiffs and that the plaintiffs had not adequately alleged that parents’ constitutional rights were violated.

Judge Benitez, however, in his written order, found that all of the plaintiffs in *Mirabelli v. Olson* have standing and “have stated plausible claims upon which relief can be granted” by the court. “The Supreme Court has long recognized that parents hold a federal constitutional due process right to direct the health care and education of their children,” Judge Benitez wrote in his order denying the motions to dismiss.

According to Judge Benitez, the restrictions on informing parents about the comportment of their children while in school originated with the State of California, specifically the California State Board of Education and the California Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Attorney General of California. “The gravamen of the state policy is that public school teachers are not to reveal to parents a student’s an-

nounced change of gender identity in order to maintain the student’s privacy, except where the student consents to disclosure,” Judge Benitez wrote. “The local school district defendants say that the state forced it to adopt the policy. The Defendant State Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued at least one threatening letter to a school district demanding the policy be followed. The Defendant Department of Education has filed suit against a school district in Rocklin, California to enforce the policy. The Defendant Attorney General has sued a school district in Chino Valley, California contending the school district’s parental notice approach violates the state’s policy.”

According to Judge Benitez, a serious health condition of a child is a matter over which parents have a federal constitutional right and duty to decide how to treat, or whether to treat at all, at any given time. “Parents’ rights to make decisions concerning the care, custody, control, and medical care of their children is one of the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests that Americans enjoy,” Judge Benitez wrote. “However, under California state policy and Escondido Union School District policy, if a school student expresses words or actions during class that are visible signs that the child is dealing with gender incongruity or possibly gender dysphoria, teachers are ordered not to inform the parents. The plaintiff parents allege that they have been harmed by the State Department of Education policy imposed on local school districts. The plaintiff parents allege that they have children who expressed gender incongruence while attending public schools. Each of the plaintiff parents allege that they asked questions about their child and schoolteachers and administrators intentionally deceived them and did not disclose the truth about their child’s gender incongruence. The

plaintiff parents allege that they are likely to be deceived in the future by public school teachers and administrators due to the State Department of Education non-disclosure policy.”

Judge Benitez continued, “Per the policies of the State Department of Education and Escondido Union School District, once a student expresses a desire to be publicly called by a new gender incongruent name or pronoun, school faculty and staff are to refer to that student by the incongruent name. From that point forward, the student may go through each school day with the faculty and staff addressing the student according to the changed moniker. However, under the antidiscrimination policy, a teacher is not permitted to inform the parents of this name change without the student’s consent.”

Judge Benitez noted that Thurmond contends that the plaintiffs had no standing to proceed with their suit because they had not suffered any harm. Benitez pointed out that in the case of the Poes, their child was engaging in gender nonconformity at school and had become the president of the school lesbian bisexual transsexual queer club. When the Poes attended a back-to-school night and met with their child’s teachers, none of the teachers said anything about their child presenting as a different gender at school, wanting to use a different name or pronoun, or that their child was president of the school lesbian bisexual transsexual queer club, according to Judge Benitez. In their interaction with the Poes, the teachers referred to the Poes’ child by her legal name and her birth gender biological pronouns, not the new name and pronouns being used in school, the judge said, pointing out that it was only after their child attempted suicide that a physician told the Poes that their daughter was identifying as a boy. When the Poes contacted the school to ask if their child was being called by

a different name, officials at the school falsely told them “No,” according to the judge.

According to the judge, the Doe parents have a child who attends public schools who has repeatedly transitioned to and desisted from a transgender identity. The Does allege that their child’s public school repeatedly directly lied to them and refused to answer their questions, citing the State Department of Education’s guidance on gender identity.

“These allegations sufficiently describe facts that the Poes and the Does have suffered an actual injury that is concrete and particularized,” Judge Benitez wrote.

Judge Benitez rejected Thurmond’s contention the teachers did not have standing because the two newly added teachers, Jane Roe and Jane Boe, had not lodged an allegation of an injury-in-fact and that Mirabelli and West are no longer teaching, stating that Mirabelli and West have intentions of returning to the teaching profession and that the teachers face the future probability of having lie to parents of any gender nonconforming students in their classrooms.

“While the government may hire teachers to deliver prescribed curricular speech, it may not compel its employees to do so in a way that intentionally abridges parental constitutional rights or in a manner that is unlawful,” Judge Benitez wrote in his ruling entered on January 7, 2025. “The teacher plaintiffs allege that the state and Escondido Union School District policies compel them to abridge parental constitutional rights and to do so in a manner that is intentionally deceptive and unlawful. These allegations fairly state a plausible claim for relief that the policies infringe on the teachers’ own constitutional rights under the First Amendment Free Speech Clause the state defendants assert, that parents ‘do not have a fundamental right to be informed of their students’

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Despite 8-To-0 Council Support For Clayton In Early October, Since Then There Have Been No More Than 4 Votes To Hire Her *from page 2*

Ward Councilwoman Kimberly Calvin, whose bid for reelection during the city's March 2024 municipal election had come up short. Calvin therefore saw installing Clayton as the city's permanent city manager as a possible enduring legacy that would live beyond her time on the council, which was set to end in December. Joining with Tran and Calvin in their belief that installing Clayton as city manager would be a sound move was then-Fifth Ward Councilman Ben Reynoso. Reynoso, like Calvin and then-Seventh Ward Councilman Damon Alexander, had failed in his March 2024

reelection attempt, and was due to leave office before the end of 2024. He was ready to join with Calvin and Tran in designating Clayton as the city's top administrator, a development which yet needed the support of two further members of the council. Those votes, however, proved elusive. Alexander had become convinced in the aftermath of the contretemps over the city's rejection of the state and county money that could have been put to use in homeless relief efforts and the way in which that matter had troubled the other members of the council, that no decision on who should be lodged in the city manager's office until the three new council members who were to replace Reynoso, Calvin and him - Kim Knaus, Mario Flores and Treasure Ortiz, respectively - were in office so they could make a decision as to who they wanted to work with as the city's

top staff member.

That left Mayor Tran scrambling to convince two of the remaining members of the council - Sanchez in the First Ward, Sandra Ibarra representing the Second Ward, Juan Figueroa, the Third Ward Councilman and Fourth Ward Councilman Fred Shorett - that Clayton not only was capable of running the city but that there was very little prospect that the city could find, without engaging in a long and drawn out recruitment effort, someone more qualified and suited to the task than she is.

Realistically, based on Sanchez's role in uncovering the facts surrounding the city's failure to grasp onto the \$20 million for homeless support programs available from the state and county and how he had to go to extraordinary lengths to get that information, there was virtually no chance that

he would provide one of those votes.

That left Shorett, Figueroa and Ibarra as the elected officials from among whom the two votes in Clayton's favor had to be harvested. Shorett, who in the initial going with Clayton stretching back to May 2024 when the sacking of Montoya took place, had been the council member most enthusiastic about Clayton. It had been his advocacy on her behalf as much as anything else that had convinced Tran, Figueroa, Reynoso and Calvin that the city could rely on her guidance. In May 2024, Sanchez, Ibarra and Alexander had been skeptical about Clayton to not go along with the five others in making her interim/acting city manager. Over the summer, Shorett had retained his enthusiasm for Clayton and Sanchez, Ibarra and Alexander had grown sufficiently comfortable with her and her osten-

sible performance that by late September Tran and the council were all in on turning the keys of the city over to her. What Sanchez had unearthed about her unilateral decision to forego the grants that would have gone a good way toward mitigating a long-standing problem jarred something in Shorett that he could not shake: the feeling that entrusting Clayton with full managerial authority would likely result in her not merely functioning in the administrative capacity at the behest of her political masters on the council that is the purview

of the city manager but that she would usurping the policy-making role that rightfully resided with him and the rest of the council. For that and other reasons, Clayton's advancement had moved into the hands of Figueroa and Ibarra, who would both need to be in assonance with the Mayor, Calvin and Reynoso to reach the magic of five in making Clayton the captain of San Bernardino's ship of state. The virtually always-agreeable Figueroa, who gets along with just about everyone, was unable to sign on to a *Continued on Page 6*

Barstow City Manager/Police Chief

Suspended *from page 3*

accused of covering up action or facts embarrassing to the department or demonstrating misfeasance or malfeasance on the part of officers by either himself writing false police reports or accepting police reports

from officers he knows are false, mispending money entrusted to him in his capacity as either or both police chief and city manager, abusing his power and authority, overseeing investigations that were less than thorough, filing falsified police reports, seizing evidence of crimes and then either destroying it,

hiding it or withholding it, engaging in the covering up of wrongdoing.

After beginning its meeting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday January 21 at 5 p.m. and hearing comment from the public on issues to be discussed in closed session, the council adjourned into that private session held behind closed doors and

beyond the scrutiny and earshot of the public for the discussion of seven specified subjects, one of which pertained to the "public employment" of the interim city manager, police chief, public safety director."

The closed session lasted for one hour. 41 minutes and 40 seconds, during which, accord-

Signing Without Scrutinizing Has Consequences *from page 3*

wants to be fleeced or gouged, he or she should read the entirety of any contract before entering into it, no matter how

forbidding the fine print and legalese. And if that language defies understanding, the contract should not be signed.

Affixing one's signature to documents have consequences, ones that can greatly impact the tenor and substance of the signer's life.

Rookie Grand Terrace Councilman

Gives SCE Spokesman What For *from page 3*

ties, the company initiated longer-term outages. Over the course of a week, the power remained off, with an 18-hour reprieve after several days. But thereafter, the power went off again.

Newly elected Councilman Matt Brown was not as reserved and delicate in his comments. At the January 14 city council meeting, he went after Southern California Edison in a major way, giving voice to some of the anger his constituents felt.

Whether Southern California Edison de-

served the verbal fusillade Brown unleashed was a matter of perspective and whether it had a salutary effect was also open to debate. Some thought Brown to be grandstanding and that it was better to put up with several days with no electricity than to see Grand Terrace go the way of Rome in during the reign of Nero. Others welcomed his remarks.

"I'm angry," Brown said. "There are a lot of people here who are angry. We have good reason to be. There are a lot of people hurting in the community."

He said that when he had the opportunity to hear from Southern California Edison Corporate President Steven Powell, he detected a lot of dou-

bletalk.

"I don't feel what I heard from Mr. Powell was..." Brown's voice trailed off and he didn't finish the sentence before starting again. "He's totally out of touch. When it comes down to money, you guys don't want to reenergize our lines, only to have to take them down again. We don't care. That's your job. You're to deliver our electricity, and if the wind dies down, you should turn it back on. If the wind kicks up 12 hours later, so be it. Then turn it [off]]. But don't make us sit for a week."

Southern California Edison's top drawer schmoozer, Mark Cloud, was on hand to sooth the irate masses of Grand Terrace residents and de-

fang Brown.

On behalf of the corporation, Cloud, whose function within the company is that of a "government affairs" specialist, ate crow. And when he finished with one plate, he gobbled down another.

"I'm so sorry for what you are going through, for what our company has done to the city," Cloud said. "I am so sorry. This outage has been completely, frankly, unacceptable. It's taken too long. It's too frequent and you're not getting the information you're looking for."

Cloud then tried to explain what he called the "logic behind the outages and the wildfire mitigation strategies and plans that we have in

ing to City Attorney Matthew Summers, the council discussed two items, one being existing litigation and the other being the employment issues relating to Espinoza. After the council returned from that closed session, Matthews announced, "The council considered... public employment regarding the

place."

He said at the root of the problem is the "extreme weather event we are experiencing throughout the Southland" and that the Inland Empire and Grand Terrace are in a "high risk fire area. The incredibly dry condition and high winds play a role as well as our wildfire mitigation plan."

Cloud said that utility companies are under the gun by government regulators to operate in such a way that they minimize to the greatest extent possible if not eliminate entirely the chance that electricity running through power lines will set off a fire somewhere during conditions which involve high winds or extremely dry vegetation

interim city manager/police chief and public safety director. There is reportable action on that item. The interim city manager/police chief and public safety director, Mr. Espinoza, has been placed on paid administrative leave until further notice."

-Mark Gutglueck

or both, whether those power lines are intact or have been blown down. As the consequence of devastating fires, such as the Paradise Fire, the state puts a higher priority on preventing fires than ensuring that the population has uninterrupted access to electrical power.

Citing the "Paradise Fire" as an example, Cloud said the "intensity of fires, scale of the fires has gone up."

The Paradise Fire, also known as the Camp Fire, came about when a Pacific Gas and Electric Company transmission line in the Feather River Canyon failed during strong winds.

According to Cloud, not only do Southern *Continued on Page 12*

Aggressive Promotion Of Clayton Has Backfired With At Least 3 Council Members *from page 5*

commitment with Clayton without a clear sign of majority support of her from his colleagues. Ibarra was noncommittal and hard to read. It looked more and more as if promoting Clayton would need to take place after the three new members of the council were seated at the dais.

Still, in what in retrospect looks to have been a fateful round of actions which in retrospect ultimately backfired, Clayton and her backers sought to orchestrate a final push to get her across the finish line starting in November. That multi-pronged approach involved a heavy-handed lobbying effort that crossed, in some cases, from asking for the council members to consider Clayton's qualifications and attributes while suggesting that she would do well in the city manager's role to outright threatening those whose votes were needed with dire consequences if they didn't support her. Developer Scott Beard contacted Sanchez, and Ibarra, telling them that if they did not vote to promote Clayton, he would pour enough money into the campaign coffers of their opponents in the 2026 election to drive them from office. Simultaneously, city employees and their unions began a full court press to convince the members of the council who were not in favor of dropping the interim/acting qualifiers from Clayton's job description that she represents the city's future.

Simultaneously, Mayor Tran and Councilwoman Calvin initiated an effort to [divest] the city of City Attorney Sonia Carvalho and her firm, Best Best & Krieger, other partners and firm associates of which served as the city's assistant city manager, deputy city manager and both planning division and real estate affairs advisors. Clayton

signed onto that effort, at least partially out of the belief that Calvin, utilizing multiple examples of excessive legal fees, settlements and conflicts of interest, would make a strong enough case to convince a majority of her colleagues that the city should separate itself from Best Best & Krieger and that the momentum from that break would carry over into a decision to promote Clayton.

Those on the council no longer sold on Clayton formulated a counterplan to have the consulting firm of Jacob Green & Associates, which conducts executive management evaluations and analysis, examine the circumstance and survey both members of the council as to their managerial expectations and the qualifications of applicants or potential applicants for the city manager post. Jacob Green & Associates features among its staff of former municipal management professionals Teri Ledoux, who from 2019 until 2020 served as city manager in San Bernardino and would therefore, it was hoped, be able to provide a realistic determination as to who would make a best managerial fit for the city.

Giving indication that she now recognized that she would need to compete for the job rather than just have it handed to her, Clayton said she was requesting that she be moved back into the deputy city manager's position, essentially so she could be considered as a city manager candidate but remain with the city as deputy city manager if she was not selected. This gesture further put the city into the position of having to fill the interim city position, what some saw as a ploy to force the city to simply hire Clayton to be done with the continuing instability.

It became apparent, through public statements that they made before they were sworn into office that both Flores and Ortiz were in favor of promoting Clayton. Knaus gave indication

she wanted to become part of a team effort to cooperatively govern the city, suggesting she was prepared to adapt herself to the management personnel and structure that were in place. Mayor Tran gave up on trying to advance Clayton before Reynoso, Calvin and Alexander departed and shifted toward ensuring that once Knaus, Flores and Ortiz were in place that the city's managerial suite would be given permanent form in accordance with her expectations.

On December 18, the installation of the new city council took place and the members were placed into a seating arrangement on the council dais designed by the mayor herself to facilitate a fluid exchange of ideas, questions and positive interactions among the new and existing members. Whether because of the mayor's effort at match-making or other factors, there was a showing of camaraderie in the course of the meeting that was unseen for years, most remarkable, perhaps, because Ortiz, whose criticisms of the council while she was in the capacity of a common citizen were de rigueur in the past, had given way to what to all outward appearances came across as friendliness toward Shorett, Sanchez and the mayor, who had been constant targets of her disdain.

Mayor Tran had scheduled a special meeting of the council the morning after the December 18 regular meeting at which she intended to get a council consensus on the process for selecting a fully-empowered city manager, but upon seeing the show of courtesy and considerate behavior among the council members the night previously, she sought to determine if there had materialized the will to hire Clayton. That was not the case, but Tran interpreted the tea leaves to indicate such an outcome was yet achievable.

Upon sober reflection, it is recognized that the threats which were made to Sanchez and Ibarra

and by extension to Shorett regarding efforts to unseat them in 2026 if Clayton were not given the city manager promotion served only to harden Sanchez in his resolve to prevent Clayton from becoming city manager and further alienate Ibarra and Shorett. The endorsements that Clayton received from the Teamsters Local 1392, which represents city workers as well as from the San Bernardino Police Officers Association and the San Bernardino Police Management Association, while calculated to positively influence Tran, Knaus, Flores and Ortiz, strong unionist Democrats all, were nevertheless seen as improper. In upcoming negotiations with those unions over setting the terms of the city employees' and police officers' salary and benefit packages, it will be the city manager representing the city. Hiring Clayton as city manager, when she is beholden to the unions for their support of her and she must then negotiate with those unions is a future conflict of interest thoughtful members of the council will want to avoid.

The tension that now exists between Clayton and Carvalho and between Clayton and the remainder of the Best Best & Krieger firm, particularly since there is no consensus on the council to end the city's relationship with the Carvalho and her firm adds to the reasons not to draft Clayton into the city manager's post.

Meanwhile, Jacob Green & Associates is conducting interviews with the members of the city council, getting from them a sense of what they want in the leader of city staff. This militates against Clayton's selection. While Tran's, Knaus', Flores' and Ortiz's experience as city officials came well after Ledoux's tenure as city manager, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett were in place while Ledoux was managing the city and its affairs. A primary trait in Ledoux's tenure was her exacting insistence on

keeping the council - the entirety of the council and not just then-Mayor John Valdivia - in the loop with regard to developments at, around and within the city governmental structure. With regard to all decisions of substance beyond routine day-to-day operational matters, Ledoux consulted with the council and either obtained informal but implicit direction from council or formal direction in the form of a council vote before proceeding. For Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett, that contrasts sharply with their experience last year when Clayton canceled the city's reception of the \$17 million grant from the state and the \$3 million in funds from the county, all of which was earmarked for homeless service programs.

The seriousness with which Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett view that particular action alone, in and of itself, might preclude Clayton from getting the five votes she needs to move into the city manager's post on a permanent basis. Her defense with regard to that element of her performance, or at least the one posited on her behalf - that she made a command decision to have the city decline the money because in both cases it was to come with strings attached with regard to how that money could be applied to homeless assistance programs and would therefore complicate arrangements the city had already made with regard to such programs it was undertaking - does not suffice. At the very least, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett believe, they should have been informed that the state had offered the city the \$17 million. That she rejected the money without consulting anyone makes it doubly worse, in their view. Whether the city was prepared to meet the conditions stipulated by the state and the county in order for the city to receive that money was a decision the city council should have

participated in, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett believe.

For Knaus and Flores, who already knew that the city was dealing with a homelessness crisis but were unaware of the details with regard to the way in which the city allowed the \$20 million in state and county money to elude it, what they have learned since coming into office has given them pause.

The give and take, back and forth between the city council members and Jacob Green & Associates, in individual one-on-one sessions and exchanges and in anticipated workshop-style discussions will in large measure shape the recommendations to be given to the council as to who, or at least what type of experienced manager, should take the helm over San Bernardino's municipal operations. Given input from the council and information exchanged already, it appears the gravitational pull is moving Rochelle Clayton away from the city manager's office rather than toward it.

Some observers have stated that part of the San Bernardino municipal managerial crisis is that Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett look at Clayton, her experience and her range of talent and skills, seeing the glass as half empty rather than half full. This perception is balanced by the reality, it was remarked, that in seeking someone who must manage the City of San Bernardino with its litany of systemic, social, financial, historic, attitudinal, reputational and existential challenges, the glass has to be all the way full.

Nevertheless, Mayor Tran and Councilwoman Ortiz remain, somewhat unreasonably, hopeful that events will transpire which will bring their council colleagues to a conclusion that, all things considered, having Clayton in place to guide city staff toward fulfilling their direction is the best circumstance they can achieve.

-Mark Gutglueck

Public Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2435796

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: JOSHUA UMIL VALMONTE filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JOSHUA UMIL VALMONTE to JOSHUA VALMONTE SANTOS

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 02/06/2025, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S37

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 12/26/2024
Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 3, 10, 17 & 24 2025.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On January 25th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., at 7955 Webster St., # 13, Highland, California 92346, the following items of property will be sold by competitive bidding at a public auction: 5 drink refrigerators, 1 ice cream machine cooler, 1 smoothie/slushie maker, 1 non-functioning atm machine, drink inventory of various sorts, 1 rolling bin, 1 cart, 1 printer, 1 old cash register, 1 light fixture, 1 filing cabinet, 1 supply cabinet, and various automotive replacement tubes and filters.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 10 & 17, 2025.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CHARLES M. HOWELL aka CHUCK HOWELL

CASE NO. PRO-VA2500006

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of CHARLES M. HOWELL aka CHUCK HOWELL: a petition for probate has been filed by JENNIFER K. HOWELL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests full authority to administer

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the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held FEBRUARY 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either

(1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Jennifer K. Howell: Mathew Alden (California Bar Number 288429) 255 North D Street Suite 200

San Bernardino, CA 92401 (909) 414-0797 mralden123@gmail.com Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 10, 17 & 24, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIV-BA 2400829

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: DESTINY VICTORIA LIMAS filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

AURELIA MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ to AURELIO ARTURO ORTEGA

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must ap-

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pear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 02/04/2025, Time: 01:30 AM, Department: B1

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, Barstow Courthouse, 25 E. Mountain View Street, Barstow, CA 92311,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 12/17/2024
Judge of the Superior Court: James R. Baxter

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2025.

FBN 20240010807
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

JC3 HOLDINGS 4152 E. AXIS PRIVADO, 101 ONTARIO, CA 91764: KRISTINE S NAVARRETE

Business Mailing Address: 1602 JEDEDIAH PL UPLAND, CA 91784

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCTOBER 10, 2024.

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ KRISTINE S NAVARRETE, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 11/27/2024

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By: Deputy K5079

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2025.

FBN 20240010980

The following person is doing business as: HARLEY'S LETTNERMAN. 168 S E ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401; [MAILING ADDRESS 168 S E ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RAMIRO D RIVERA-MONTES

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ RAMIRO D RIVERA-MONTES, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 04, 2024

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By: Deputy Notice-This fictitious name state-

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ment expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/20/2024, 12/27/2024, 01/03/2025, 01/10/2025 CNBB51202401MT

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: VIVIAN MAESTAS

CASE NO. PRO-VA2500025

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of VIVIAN MAESTAS:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANTHONY RICHARD MAESTAS, SR. in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANTHONY RICHARD MAESTAS, SR. be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F-3 at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 2025

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in

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the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Anthony Richard Maestas, Sr.:

ANTONIETTE JAU-REGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENTER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106 ajprobate@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 3, 10 & 17, 2025.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

JIMMY R. GLEASON aka JIM GLEASON CASE NO. PRO-VA2500042

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JIMMY R. GLEASON aka JIM GLEASON: a petition for probate has been filed by DEBORAH A. GLEASON in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DEBORAH A. GLEASON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests full authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held FEBRUARY 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in

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the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Deborah A. Gleason:

Mathew Alden (California Bar Number 288429) 255 North D Street Suite 200

San Bernardino, CA 92401 (909) 414-0797

mralden123@gmail.com Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 17, 24 & 31, 2025.

CIV SB 2500134 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner DAVID CALLAZO-MONTIEL filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

DAVID CALLAZO-MONTIEL to DAVID COLLAZO

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Department: S26
The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Gilbert G. Ochoa
Judge of the Superior Court.

Filed: January 16, 2025 by Shuai Zhou, Deputy Court Clerk

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 17, 24 & 31 and February 7, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CIV SB 2500108

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner ERICA ENOEX filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CASSIUS ENOEX-BELL to CASSIUS ENOEX

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is sched-

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uled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: FEBRUARY 26 2025 Time: 8:30 a.m. Department: S17

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Gilbert G. Ochoa
Judge of the Superior Court.

Filed: January 17, 2025 by A. Skinner, Deputy Court Clerk

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 17, 24 & 31 and February 7, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CIV SB 2500116

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner MICHAEL ANTHONY WARD filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MICHAEL ANTHONY WARD to MICHAEL ANTHONY CHAVEZ

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m. Department: S22

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Gilbert G. Ochoa
Judge of the Superior Court.

Filed: January 15, 2025 by Abrianna Rodriguez, Deputy Court Clerk

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on January 24 & 31 and February 7 & 14, 2025.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2500152

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: MARIA ISABEL PALACIOS filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MARIA ISABEL PALA-

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business as: THE FOUNTAIN MINISTRIES, INC.; APOSTOLIC CHURCH; FOUNTAIN OF TRUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY; FOUNTAIN OF TRUTH CHURCH. 9271 ARROW ROUTE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 917309271 ARROW ROUTE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO THE FOUNTAIN MINISTRIES, INC 9271 ARROW ROUTE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 4086548. The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 27, 2017 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ NATHANIEL L. OCHOA, TREASURER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 23, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original state-

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ment on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/24/2025, 01/31/2025, 02/07/2025, 02/14/2025 CNBB4202511MT

FBN 20250000583 The following person is doing business as: SONORA AUTO TRANSPORT. 233 W D ST COLTON, CA 92324;[MAILING ADDRESS 233 W D ST COLTON, CA 92324 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO]; LANESSA HERRERA. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 21, 2025 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she

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knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ LANESSA HERRERA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 22, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/24/2025, 01/31/2025, 02/07/2025, 02/14/2025 CNBB4202512MT

FBN 20250000584 The following person is doing business as: LIBERTY AUTO SALE CORP. 363 W 6TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401;[MAILING ADDRESS 363 W 6TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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LIBERTY AUTO CORP 363 W 6TH ST SAN BERNARDINO CA 92401 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 16, 2024 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ SANTA TERESA BARRON, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 22, 2025 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 01/24/2025, 01/31/2025, 02/07/2025, 02/14/2025 CNBB4202513MT

FBN 20240010514 The following person is doing business as: CHUBB'S TRUCK SALES, INC. 517 N. MOUNTAIN AVE. STE. 218 UPLAND, CA 91786;[MAILING 517 N. MOUNTAIN AVE. STE. 218 UPLAND, CA 91786]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CHUBB'S TRUCK SALES, INC. 517 N. MOUNTAIN AVE. STE. 218 UPLAND, CA 91786 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 6436972 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/MIRNATERRONES, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 13, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original state-

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ment on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/13/2024, 12/20/2024, 12/27/2024, 01/03/2025 CNBB50202415MT CORRECTION DATES 1/24/2025, 1/31/2025, 02/07/2025 & 02/14/2025/

FBN 20240009047 The following person is doing business as: MORENO LANDSCAPE SERVICES 969 S OLIVE AVE RIALTO, CA 92376;[MAILING ADDRESS 969 S OLIVE ST RIALTO, CA 92376]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JOSE MORENO The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCTOBER 04, 2024

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By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JOSE MORENO, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: OCTOBER 07, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 10/11/2024, 10/18/2024, 10/25/2024, 11/01/2024 CNBB41202426MT CORRECTION DATES 12/13/2024, 12/20/2024, 12/27/2024 & 01/03/2025 CORRECTION DATES 1/ 24/ 2025, 1/31/2025, 02/07/2025 & 02/14/2025

Power Was Shut Off Because Of GT Power Plant's Regional Importance, Spokesman Says from page 5

California Edison personnel initiate power shutoffs, the system now incorporates automatic power interruption as part of the combined state and private utility fire safety protocol.

"We are placing on top of our power poles these days... a lot of automated technology," Cloud said, "...wireless reclosures, a lot of technical stuff that will allow us to not only detect faults instantly, but also de-energize lines instantly as well in an automated way so that our lines, when they're live, don't spark a new fire in the Southland,

which can happen when there's high winds. Obviously, the winds we are experiencing with this wind event is different. Clearly, it has lasted a very long time. I've grown up around these winds and I've never seen this level of wind before. Wind, obviously, can affect our system but so can a number of other things. If wind for example is blowing vegetation into the lines, that can bring down a line. It can not only knock your power out, it can also spark and send sparks down to the ground and if there's not good enough vegetation management, that can start a fire."

Brown pushed forward with expressing his perception that Southern California Edison President Steven Powell was disregarding of the cir-

cumstance that the residents of Grand Terrace had fallen into.

"I want to see pressure put on Edison, because these time lines are unacceptable by any means," Brown said. "To be without power for seven days when there's no wind is just unfathomable. I can't believe you guys are letting this happen."

Cloud attempted to toe the fine line that included not antagonizing Brown and placating him by not contesting what the councilman said while acknowledging his company's shortcomings and simultaneously explaining the reasons why the company had to keep Grand Terrace in the dark for six nights.

"There is an operational reason why this area was hit harder than others," Cloud said.

gender incongruity that could progress to gender dysphoria, depression, or suicidal ideation, because it is a matter of health."

In this way, Judge Benitez opined, "The defendants' policies do little to protect a parent's interests in their child's health. On the contrary, when on occasion these interests collide, the defendants' policies promote the ascendancy of a child's rights over the child's parents. The Supreme Court's precedents point the other way toward 'permit[ting] the parents to retain a substantial, if not the dominant, role' in a health care decision."

Federal Judge Lets Test Of State Restrictions On Parental Notification To Go To Trial from page 4

gender identity at school, and accommodating a student's social transition at school is not medical care triggering any right to parental involvement.' This cramped definition of parental rights is conclusory and requires the suspension of disbelief. Constitutional rights of parents to bring up a child and decide how to handle health care issues are some of America's oldest foundational rights."

Judge Benitez then referenced an appellate court statement in the case of Troxel v. Granville that emphasized this point: "The liberty interest at issue in this case—the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children—is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court."

Judge Benitez stated, "This is especially true with regard to issues of health. And although the state defendants disagree, it easily follows that parents do have a constitutional right to be accurately informed by public school teachers about their student's

"There is a fine balance between reliability and keeping the fire at bay. We're not doing a good job of it here.

Cloud made the point that the high voltage transmission system lines conveying electricity across the region are much higher in the air than the local distribution system lines. Consequently, he explained, the high-tension lines represent less of a fire-sparking hazard than the local power distribution lines. He suggested by this an explanation of why Southern California Edison was still conveying Gigawatts through Grand Terrace while denying the city the lesser quantity of megawatts needed to keep the power on within the city.

"The decision to de-energize your circuits [is] not made in an unruly

Moreover, Judge Benitez in not so many words accused Governor Newsom, California Superintendent of Education Thurmond and Attorney General Bonta of making it up as they go along and then imputing greater authority to what they have made up than to long-established legal principle. Judge Benitez wrote, "The defendants stand on unprecedented and more recently created state law child rights to privacy and to be free from gender discrimination. These rights may compete when it comes to information about a child's expressed gender incongruence in a public school. Parents have

fashion," Cloud said. "It's obviously very prescriptive. It's very much tied to government regulation and policy. Public safety power shutoffs is a policy tool of last resort."

He gestured to indicate the power station at the periphery of the city.

"That substation and the transmission lines being there are critically important to reliability across the region," he said. In this way, he explained, Grand Terrace had been called upon to make a sacrifice for the greater good in Southern California.

"You happen to be in a really serious cluster of utility infrastructure all around us," Cloud said. "You notice the transmission lines coming behind us here. That's called our Western Divers Transmission Line. It is relatively new. It

a right to know about their child gender expression at school. And a child has a right to keep gender expressions private and to be protected from discrimination. The Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit have clearly and unambiguously declared parents' rights as they relate to their children. There are no controlling decisions that would compel this court to limit or infringe parental rights, notwithstanding the state's laudable goals of protecting children. This court concludes that, in a collision of rights as between parents and child, the long-recognized federal constitutional rights of

brings renewable energy from the desert to this region. That comes into the substations that are up on the hill above the 215 Freeway. That makes this area more sensitive to outages and I wish that wasn't the case but it is. If one of the substations goes down from a fire or a wind—because that can happen; lightning strikes also play a role in knocking out power or a substation—what we'll have is a catastrophic fire that goes beyond Grand Terrace. It will reach all the cities around us that are fed by these substations up above us here. That is the complication we are seeing here in Grand Terrace That doesn't mean it excuses the length of time you've been out and the frequency with which you've been out. It doesn't."

parents must eclipse the state rights of the child. Therefore, the court finds that the plaintiffs have stated plausible claims upon which relief can be granted and the motions to dismiss are denied. Therefore, it is ordered that: All plaintiffs enjoy Article III standing. The motion to dismiss of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is denied. The motion to dismiss of the members of the Board of Education is denied. The Attorney General's motion to dismiss is denied. The motion to dismiss of the Escondido Union School District Defendants is denied."

-Mark Gutglueck