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Court clerk claims sexual harassment by Weber County Justice Court judge

Judicial conduct » Watchdog panel issues private reprimand.

By Stephen Hunt
The Salt Lake Tribune

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Weber County Justice Court Judge Craig Storey's longtime court clerk says the judge admitted to some misconduct after she complained to the state's judicial watchdogs he had sexually harassed her.

But on Tuesday, she says, the Judicial Conduct Commission decided to admonish the judge in private and close the case. That prompted Marcia Eisenhower, 49, to go public with the incident, claiming while the judge is off the hook she is left to return to a hostile work environment.

Commission proceedings are secret unless the commission recommends public discipline and executive director Colin Winchester declined any comment.

But Ogden attorney Brenda Beaton told *The Salt Lake Tribune* that Storey, 55, admitted to the JCC that he wrote a sexually explicit poem about Eisenhower, described for her a dream in which she was washing dishes in the court's break room while naked from the waist up and that he had called and said he loved her after her father died.

Beaton said Storey did not admit to standing so close to Eisenhower while she worked that on several occasions his groin was against her thigh or the back of her head and neck.

Storey did not return phone calls made to his offices at the Weber County and Huntsville justice courts. Storey's attorney, Robert Echard, also did not return a call.

Eisenhower, who said she has worked with Storey for 24 years, said that in April 2007, while cleaning out the judge's office, she and another clerk found an 11-page poem written about Eisenhower.

The poem, which refers to Eisenhower by name, talks about how Storey longs to have a relationship with her and calls it "torture" to have to remain "at arm's length when I want to hold you in my arms with all my might and strength."

The poem also makes sexual references about Eisenhower's body, and goes on to describe how Storey would like to remove her clothing and "behold [her] in the nude."

Eisenhower said she replaced the poem in Storey's desk and decided not mention it to him. But when the judge returned from a judge's conference, he handed Eisenhower the pad of paper containing the poem and asked her to file it, she said, apparently wanting her to read it.

Then, in January 2008, after Eisenhower's husband called the judge and confided that he and Marcia Eisenhower were getting a divorce, the judge initiated a conversation with Eisenhower about her personal problems and said he felt bad she had not come to him with them.

After finding out Eisenhower was getting a divorce, Storey started acting "differently," she told *The Tribune*. She said the judge touched her with his groin in March 2008. He told her about the dream in which she was naked in April 2008.

And in May 2008, the judge accused Eisenhower of doing illegal drugs and being a bad employee, and he told

other court employees about those accusations, Eisenhower said.

In early July 2008, the judge told Eisenhower she would have to get his permission to take vacation time, as well as tell him where she was going and with who she was going, Eisenhower said.

"That was the last straw," she said.

On July 10, 2008, Eisenhower spoke to Deputy Weber County Attorney Craig Allred, who launched an investigation, according to documents provided to *The Tribune*.

Even though the judge allegedly made admissions to county investigators, Eisenhower said she was told that because the judge was an elected official, they could take no direct action against him.

She said Weber County Attorney Mark DeCaria asked the Utah Attorney General's Office to take the case, but they declined to act.

Instead, Eisenhower was placed on paid administrative leave from August to December 2008, when county officials told her to return to work and that they had a "plan" to make her feel comfortable.

Storey's office was moved from the first floor to the third floor, the judge was told to stay away from Eisenhower and an employee was designated as a liaison to relay Eisenhower's communication to the judge.

But meanwhile, Eisenhower claims, the judge had "cried on the shoulders" of most of the other court employees and turned many of them against Eisenhower.

"I went from the frying pan into the fire," Eisenhower said. "I was in a bad situation trying to hold this in. Now, there is a hostile work environment with the other clerks, and the judge is very angry."

Beaton said they are seeking authorization to sue Weber County through the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which can award damages to cover Eisenhower's stress-related problems, which include migraine headaches and panic attacks.

Eisenhower decided to go public after the JCC cut a deal with Storey, declining to hear from about eight witnesses, including Eisenhower, who were ready to testify on Tuesday.

"I couldn't believe nothing was done," Eisenhower said.

Beaton says Eisenhower has no choice but to return to work. She needs the income to support her three children, as well as the medical insurance and the full retirement benefits that will be available in six years.

"I feel like a lamb being led to the slaughter," Eisenhower said. "I got caught up in a good old boys' network."

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NEWSBEAT

Hearing set for alleged bomb maker

SALT LAKE CITY — Brandon Ross Easter, charged with having a pipe bomb in his Farmington home, made his first appearance in federal court Thursday.



Easter, 33, appeared U.S. Magistrate Judge Brooke Wells after being arrested and booked Wednesday into Davis County Jail.

The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Davis County Bomb Squad and Farmington police arrived at his home after receiving a tip and removed a pipe bomb from Easter's home.

Wells appointed attorney Randy Ludlow to represent Easter and set a detention hearing for 9:30 a.m. Monday to hear arguments why Easter should stay in federal custody or be released until the case is settled. A grand jury hearing is set for Aug. 19.

Ogden school board OKs auditorium bid

OGDEN — The Ogden City School Board approved a bid that was lower than expected for the Phase 2 remodel of the Ogden High School auditorium. The remodel, which will bring the auditorium up to code and to seismic safety, was originally budgeted for \$22,069,219.

Based on the low bids that came in, the cost of the project has been set for a total of \$21,988,672.

One major component of the remodel will be upgrading the building for earthquake safety. The project will stabilize the entire structure to the roof to increase the safety of the building. The first floor of the remodeled building will house classrooms, including science, health occupation, and engineering. The second floor will house the fine arts classrooms such as dance, band, choir, orchestra, and a black box theatre.

Phase I construction, which involved the cafeteria remodel and a new field house, has been completed. The cafeteria has updated equipment and an expanded dining area. The new field house lower level consists of a wrestling locker, weight training room, locker rooms, and a multipurpose room.

Eagle recovering in Ogden after crash

PARK CITY — A golden eagle is in the midst of a remarkable recovery after flying into a tractor-trailer's windshield in Summit County.

Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Cameron Roden said the semitrailer driver saw the bird fly from the side of Interstate 80 on Tuesday before it crashed through his lap.

Roden said the driver and another person used a blanket to capture the injured bird, which was turned over to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Wildlife resources officials said the bird is doing well at a rehabilitation center in Ogden, especially considering what it went through.

DAILY PICK

● Jason Hewlett, this musical impersonator appears at 8 p.m. at the Weber County Fairgrounds, 1000 N. 1200 West, Ogden. Part of the Weber County Fair entertainment. Free with fair admission. (801) 399-8798.

— Standard-Examiner staff and wire services

COMING SATURDAY

Ogden church goes to the community to quench thirsts

Clerk looks to federal court

Justice court judge accused of sexual harassment

By TIM GURRISTER
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OGDEN — A court clerk will take to the federal level her accusations she was sexually harassed by Weber County Justice Court Judge Craig Storey after the state Judicial Conduct Commission this week took no action against the judge.

Over more than two years, Marcia Eisenhower accuses Storey of rubbing her up against her and once telling her he dreamed of her naked from the

waist up washing dishes in the court's break room.

In her complaint she alleges other behaviors by Storey, including monitoring her phone calls, asking co-workers for personal information about her and requiring her vacation request be made to him directly with detail on where she was going, when and with whom.

A key piece of evidence is an 11-page, single-spaced, mildly erotic love poem Storey wrote to her.

Harassment also occurred at the Huntsville Justice Court where Sto-

rey also presides and she has worked as a clerk in recent years, according to Eisenhower, her attorney Brenda Beaton, and documents from the Utah Labor Commission.

Beaton is waiting for final papers from the labor commission to move the complaint to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where penalties can be more severe.

The Weber County Attorney's Office pressed the sexual harassment complaint which the JCC chose not to act upon at a Tuesday closed-door

hearing. The county also passed the complaint to the Utah Attorney General's Office months ago, which also took no action.

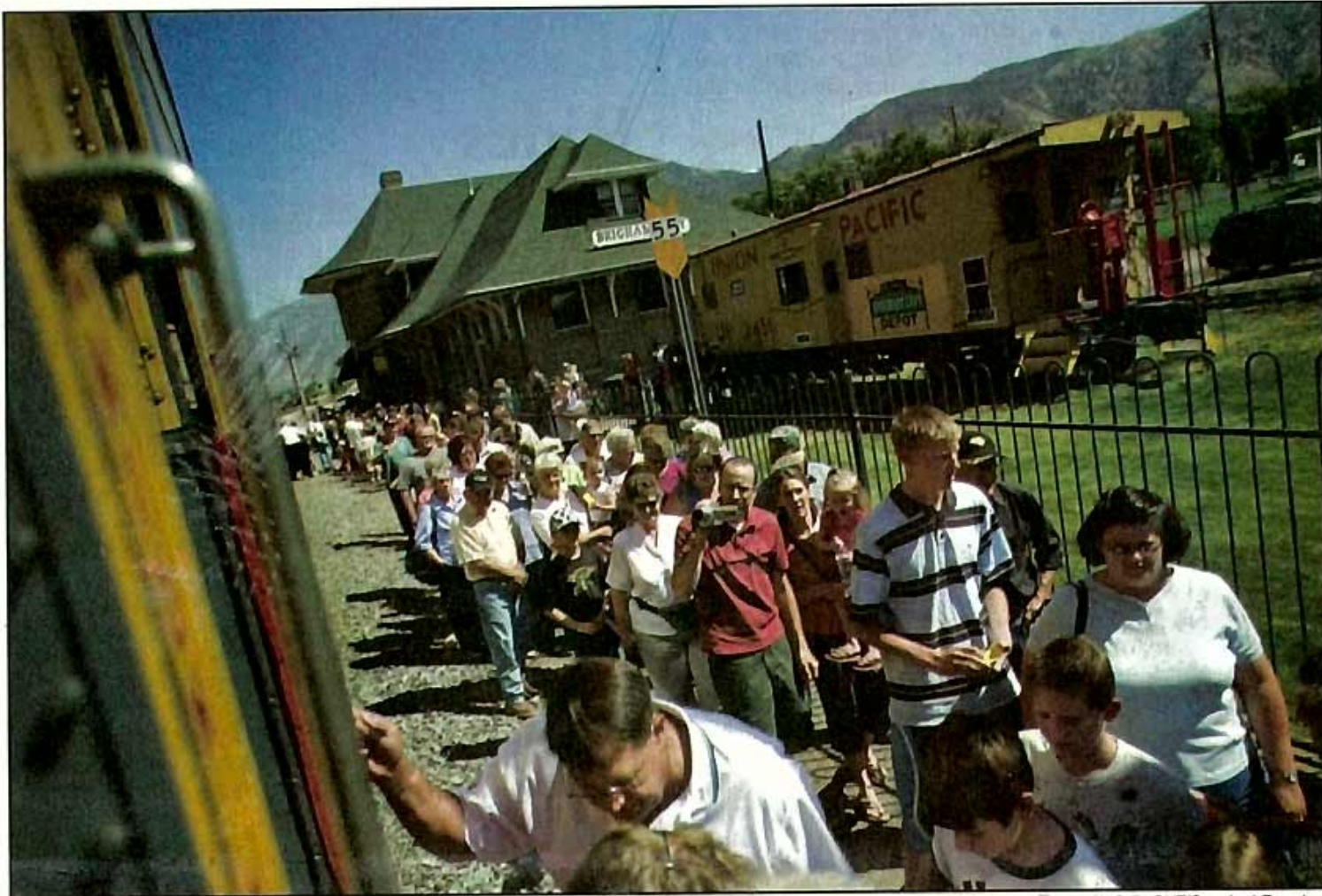
"It's been one big fat Pandora's box," Beaton said. Calls to Storey's attorney, Steve Farr, were not immediately returned after several messages were exchanged.

Storey gave Eisenhower his love poem in April 2007, handing her the sexually tinged writings on a legal pad and telling her to file it.

The rambling, rhyming poem is replete with comparisons of Eisenhower's attractiveness to the wonders of nature.

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RIDING THE RAILS



MATT MCKNIGHT/Standard-Examiner

Passengers board a train at the Brigham City depot for a free ride that Operation Lifesaver sponsored for the community Thursday.

Hundreds take advantage of free train rides, learn rail safety from Operation Lifesaver

By DI LEWIS
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BRIGHAM CITY — As the train lumbered closer to the station Thursday and the whistle blew, the crowd waiting on the platform began talking excitedly.

That's unusual, Judy Loveland said. People in Box Elder hear about the train rides in Salt Lake City and Ogden, but having the train here is something new.

Loveland, a volunteer at the Brigham City Train Depot, was happy to see so many people at the century-old depot.

Operation Lifesaver offered four free trips between Brigham City and Crystal Hot Springs on Thursday as part of an ongoing effort to teach rail safety.



MATT MCKNIGHT/Standard-Examiner

Operation Lifesaver state coordinator Vern Keeslar prepares to walk along the engine car while riding a train south to Brigham City during one of four rides the organization sponsored for the community. "People came to ride the train with us from as far as St. George today," Keeslar says.

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Farr West City Council looks to West Haven for emergency plan ideas

By TERRIE L. STEPHENSON
Standard-Examiner correspondent

FARR WEST — Councilman Michael Lunt says he has taken a look at West Haven's emergency plan as a guide to create a similar plan for Farr West.

Lunt said the West Haven plan covers a number of different things, including emergency radio procedures, possible hazards and telephone numbers that are important during a crisis.

Lunt said now the city needs to add details about who goes where in case of an emergency.

"We need to decide about responsibilities and talk about training," said Lunt.

"Those are things I guess we can work on."

He said council members need to review the information and decide on any changes they would like made before a final emergency plan is adopted.

"We can sit down and go over it (the emergency plan) together," said Roelene Taylor, a resident who has been helping the city with emergency preparation.

"There is an assignment for each council member. You need to decide who is going to have each responsibility. You will know exactly what to do, you just need to decide which one of you is going to do which job. One of you might be over first aid, one of you might be over food, one of you might be over shelter — you guys just need to read this and de-

cide."

Councilwoman Ava Painter suggested the council discuss the emergency plan in a work session.

Mayor Jimmie Papageorge said once the council has discussed the plan and made some decisions it should be put on the agenda for council action.

Papageorge also questioned the status of the radio antenna Weber County promised to put on the roof of City Hall. It is part of the city emergency plan.

"That was supposed to be here, and we should have it up by now," said Papageorge.

"In my experience with the county, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil," said Councilman Tim Shupe.

Noxious weeds Morgan County to begin enforcing ordinance

By DEANNE WINTERTON
Standard-Examiner correspondent

MORGAN — The Morgan County Council is warning residents to get rid of noxious weeds.

"We have acres of uncontrolled noxious weeds," said Councilman Alvin Lundgren. "We need to give notice to property owners, advise them if they are not diligent in taking care of their own property, someone from the county may come on their property to remove weeds."

In such a situation, the landowner would be billed for the county's efforts. Liens may also be filed against property, Lundgren said.

"The most glaring deficit is absentee property owners in subdivisions," Lundgren said. "Larger subdivisions have acres and acres of noxious weeds. The landowner doesn't care and probably hasn't been there for six months."

Several council members said county easements and rights of way would come under scrutiny once landowners are put on alert.

"I've had homeowners calling us to take care of weeds (on county property) that are approaching their property lines," said Councilman Howard Hansen. "It's an issue we need to address."

Officials said that, because of a lack of manpower, the

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