

RADON KITS:

Oakland County's health division will offer radon-detection test kits for \$5 at the county's three health department offices. Radon is an odorless and invisible gas that is harmless outdoors but potentially hazardous indoors. To pick up a kit, go to one of the three offices 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays: 1200 N. Telegraph, Building 34E, Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield, or 1010 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake. For more information, call 248-858-1312.

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Black book on its way to Fla.

Lawyer gets escort client list

By TRESA BALDAS
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The coveted black book at the center of what federal prosecutors in Michigan are calling a major bust of a nationwide high-priced escort service will have its own ticket to Tampa.

Florida defense lawyer Paul DeCailly, who fought for access to the list that names tens of thousands of clients — including several from metro Detroit — had his request granted by a federal judge in Detroit on Friday and is heading back to the Sunshine State without the list. He said he doesn't want to take any chances with losing it or someone stealing it.

So, the feds are sending the list to Florida, where the escort service was based, separately

— under tight security, of course. DeCailly will pick it up at a government office possibly by next week.

"There are so many things that could happen... and I don't want to violate the judge's order in any way," DeCailly said.

Against a prosecutor's wishes, DeCailly is getting an unredacted customer list of Miami Companions, which was busted in metro Detroit last summer. DeCailly is representing Gregory Carr, a Dearborn Heights native and co-owner of the service, who was indicted in July on prostitution and money laundering charges.

Carr, his ex-wife Laurie Carr and three others were indicted for running what the

government says was once one of the largest prostitution rings in the U.S., with metro Detroit being among its busiest ports.

According to court records, from the early 2000s through 2009, Miami Companions sent prostitutes to hotels in Southfield, Romulus, Novi and Canton. The Carrs raked in more than \$4 million, records show.

Laurie Carr pleaded guilty in October and is cooperating with authorities.

Gregory Carr is scheduled to go to trial March 22.

U.S. District Judge Arthur Tarnow granted DeCailly's request to have the list — which contains some 30,000 names — but he did set some conditions: Prosecutors must give DeCailly the list on a computer disc that can't be copied. DeCailly can't print any information off the disc, and the client



Laurie Carr, ex-husband Gregory Carr and three others were indicted in a prostitution ring.

database can't be shared with the public.

"I'll take whatever the judge will give me," said DeCailly, who had argued in court that he should be trusted with the black book.

DeCailly has been fighting for weeks for access to the entire customer list, claiming he has a right to see what the government has on his client.

Federal prosecutors had argued against releasing the entire list on privacy grounds, indicating they didn't trust what

DeCailly might do with the information. The list contains the names of customers, their contact information, details about dates and clients' sexual preferences.

"It could be used to potentially harass and intimidate potential witnesses. It could be lost, stolen or used by others," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Blackwell argued in court, later adding, "Once it's out there, it's out there."

Blackwell brought the list to court Friday, and held it up.

"This is the list, the black book," she said, raising in the air a sealed plastic bag containing a computer disc. She stressed, "I am very careful with how we treat this disc."

The disc, meanwhile, is headed south.

"I just want to defend my client," DeCailly told the Free Press.

Michigan

LANSING

Governor puts investments into blind trust

Gov. Rick Snyder, a multimillionaire, has put his personal investments into a blind trust to avoid any conflict of interest while in office, his spokeswoman Gaylor Lasher said Friday.

In a preamble to the blind trust, Snyder said he wishes "scrupulously to avoid the possibility" that any decision he makes as governor could be influenced by his financial interests.

Lasher said she doesn't know how much money the former Executive and venture capitalist has in the trust. Snyder spent nearly \$6 million of his own money in his race to become Michigan's 48th governor.

The Republican signed the paperwork amending his trust two days before he was sworn in as governor Jan. 1. A trustee will make all investment decisions now.

Region

Islamic group's trademark case is continued

A federal judge continued Monday a hearing on the Council on American-Islamic Relations' lawsuit against Debbie Schussel, a conservative political commentator whom the group accuses of trademark infringement and using its name maliciously.

Judge Avern Cohn of U.S. District Court in Detroit indicated that he didn't believe the case would focus much on First Amendment free-speech rights but instead on whether Schussel is violating CAIR's trademark rights.

Cohn appeared ready to act on a motion by CAIR to temporarily stop Schussel, a Southfield lawyer, from using or raising money in CAIR's name. But a copy of a temporary restraining order CAIR's lawyers said they filed couldn't be located. Cohn ordered both sides back to court at 2 p.m. Monday.

CAIR lawyer Lena Masri said outside court that Schussel's use of CAIR's name on Internet domain names Schussel registered "is an unauthorized use and a clear violation of our trademark laws."

CAIR contends Schussel filed incorporation papers for CAIR Michigan Inc. in April with about 17 assumed names, including Council on American-Islamic Relations. CAIR's suit says Schussel told a follower on her Web site that she registered the names "to drive the Muslims crazy."

Schussel says she's using her Web site to expose Islamic intolerance and infringement of free speech and other American ways.

Driving ordinance

Don't drive in Troy if your salad can't wait

By TAMMY STABLES BATTAGLIA
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

She had a fork in her left hand, a salad in her right hand.

The problem? She was driving, according to Troy police.

"How can you hope to enter a car if you don't have either of your hands on the steering wheel?" Troy Police Lt. Robert Redmond said Friday, adding that a person's average reaction time to a driving emergency is 15 seconds. "The fact that you have to drop your salad bowl before you react could have catastrophic results."

The 40-year-old woman from Sterling Heights — who was stopped Wednesday on Big Beaver — is but one driver who earned the attention of Troy officers in their first week of enforcing the city's new distracted driving law.

Through Friday, the Troy Police Department issued four tickets to people driving while using handheld devices and issued 28 warnings, said Redmond. Of the warnings, 22 were for using handheld devices, and six were for doing other distractions.

The law goes beyond Michigan's ban on texting while driving. The state law makes the offense a civil infraction that doesn't put any points on a driver's record, but carries a \$100 fine for a first offense and \$200 for each offense thereafter. Troy's ordinance expands the ban to driving badly while doing anything other than driving.

The Troy ordinance is also a zero-point offense that won't affect insurance rates. But it carries up to a \$200 local fine for texting while driving or driving distracted, and \$200 for talking on a cell phone, officials said.

One person warned was a 42-year-old Rochester Hills man spotted counting his New Year's Eve tips as he drove north on Rochester Road near Wattles at 12:20 p.m. Jan. 1, his overhead light on and his hands full of cash, Redmond said.

He was driving 32 m.p.h. in a 45 m.p.h. zone.

One phone user from Burtchville received a ticket at 4:10 p.m. Wednesday when she swerved while dialing a phone number — right into the path of a Troy police car driving in the lane next to her on Big Beaver, Redmond said.



E. Powell Miller looks at his baseball card collection at his law office in Rochester. "Clients love them, and so do opposing lawyers," he says.

WALL OF FAME

Lawyer's office is lined with rare baseball cards

By DAVID ASHENFELTER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Lawyers and clients know E. Powell Miller as a high-powered class-action attorney who has scored multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements against big corporations.

But the 48-year-old Rochester lawyer has another side: He collects baseball cards — lots of 'em.

A huge display case packed with hundreds of colorful and rare baseball cards from the early 1900s greets visitors to his office.

Miller's trove of T206 cards — painted player portraits that were packaged with cigarettes in 1909-91 — is ranked fifth internationally, according to the Professional Sports Authenticator service.

Miller says he's one card shy of owning a complete 524-card set: the one of New York Yankees pitcher Jack (Slow Joe) Doyle that has him playing for the wrong team.

Yes, he has a card of Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Honus Wagner, the rarest of T206 cards. And his entire collection is guarded by a security alarm.

Miller, a lifelong baseball fan, said he began collecting baseball cards as a child.

He grew up in Detroit, the son of a lawyer and a college sociology professor.

After graduating from the University



Miller has one of the rarest cards of all: an Honus Wagner. About 60 are known to exist.

of Detroit High School in 1979, he enrolled at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he was a national debate champion.

He graduated from Georgetown in 1983 and Wayne State University Law School in 1986, then joined Honigman Miller, a prestigious Detroit law firm, representing clients in commercial disputes.

He left in 1994 to open his own law firm, which has grown to 20 lawyers.

Miller has scored several legal victories, earning him top ratings in legal publications.

In 2009, he won a \$20-million settle-

ment in a securities lawsuit against former Ann Arbor-based ProQuest, a publisher of educational materials, after financial-reporting irregularities caused its stock value to plummet in 2006.

These days, he's co-lead counsel in a class-action against American International Group Inc., whose angry investors accused the company of misleading them about its exposure to the subprime mortgage fiasco.

"I'm a big advocate that Michigan lawyers are just as good as New York and California lawyers," Miller said.

He said he got interested in T206 cards 10 years ago because they're colorful, artistic and represent baseball's golden era.

"Clients love them, and so do opposing lawyers," Miller said, adding that the cards are a great conversation starter.

He has other collectibles, including a basketball Michael Jordan signed when he was in college, a postcard legendary Yankees slugger Babe Ruth wrote to his butcher shortly before his death in 1948 and a letter George Washington penned to another general during the Revolutionary War.

"A lot of people fill their offices with stuff about themselves," Miller said. "I like to fill mine with things great people touched and hope some of it rubs off."

He said he hopes someday to donate his growing collection to a museum so others can enjoy it as much as he has.