

Teen wins suit against mayor of Kokomo

Judge: Open-records law applies to e-mail lists

The Associated Press

KOKOMO

A judge has sided with a high school student who sued Kokomo's mayor to obtain a list of e-mail addresses for the 1,400 subscribers to the city's electronic newsletter.

Western High School student Ryan Nees filed the lawsuit under the state's open-records law after he said he subscribed to the city newsletter and then started also receiving campaign messages.

Howard Circuit Court Judge Lynn Murray on Monday ruled that the list was a public record and ordered Mayor Matt McKillip to provide the information and for the city to pay more than \$5,000 for Nees' legal fees.

Attorneys for the city had argued that the e-mail list should receive the same legal protection as a list of postal mailing addresses. State law restricts those wanting a list of mailing addresses from a government agency to hand-copy the information.

But Murray disagreed in her ruling.

"The courts cannot fill gaps in a statutory scheme designed by the legislature," she wrote. "Had the legislature intended to exempt a list of e-mail addresses, it could and would have done so."

A bill pending in the Indiana House would allow government agencies to keep such e-mail lists confidential. The bill passed the state Senate last month.

McKillip said he had not decided whether to appeal the judge's ruling, but that he believed the e-mail list should be protected from businesses or individuals who might want the addresses for commercial or political use.

"When people sign up to receive the city's newsletter, they do not sign up to receive mail from anyone else," he said.

McKillip, a first-term Republican in the city about 40 miles north of Indianapolis, said he had not used the mailing list for political purposes and that his campaign had a much shorter e-mail list.



Don Brock looks at some of his prescription drugs at his home in Litchfield, Minn., on Feb. 10. Brock stopped buying drugs from Canada this year because he signed up for the federal Medicare drug benefit.

Fewer seniors looking north for medications

By MARTIGA LOHN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn.

Retired furniture store owner Don Brock quit buying prescription drugs from Canada this year, now that he's signed up for the new federal Medicare drug benefit.

The next time he needs a refill on Lipitor, his daily anti-cholesterol drug, Brock will go to a pharmacy near his home in Litchfield, Minn. The 74-year-old says he was saving about \$300 annually buying Canadian; now, he figures he'll save about \$500 buying through Medicare.

Canada is losing traction as a source of cheaper prescription drugs for many Americans. Cross-border sales have fallen as much as 30 percent, according to the Canadian International Pharmacy Association, since about 42 million seniors and disabled people became eligible for Medicare drug coverage

Jan. 1, and the group says U.S. authorities have stepped up enforcement of laws against importing foreign medicines.

While Canadian pharmacists expect some of that traffic to return, they're also considering marketing more heavily to some of the 45.5 million uninsured Americans who can't afford to pay retail drug prices at home.

Canadian Internet pharmacies catering to American customers sprang up about six years ago, filling a market created by busloads of U.S. border-state seniors who came north seeking cheaper medications.

Experts say the Canadian pipeline won't disappear.

"Seniors aren't the only ones who use drugs from Canada," said Stephen Schondelmeyer, who directs a pharmaceutical economics research institute at the University of Minnesota. "For the people who don't have insurance somewhere else, Canada is still a very viable alternative."



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Roncalli Salutes Our State Finalist Girls' Swim Team



The Roncalli Swim Team had a record-setting performance claiming the 2006 Franklin Central Sectional Championship. The girls scored a school record 381 points as they outdistanced the second place Flashes by 100 points. Lady Rebel Swimmers had 15 individual lifetime bests, broke one school record and had five Sectional Champions.

Lady Rebel Swimmers were represented in seven different events at the 2006 State Swimming Finals at the IUPUI Natatorium. Our State Finalist Swimmers and Sectional Champions included Emily Day (200 freestyle and 100 butterfly), Sara Robinson (500 freestyle and 100 backstroke), Lisa Elworth (50 freestyle) and Molly Clark, Kara Griffiths, Sam Clark, Tara Colwell and Erin Gahimer (relay team members) and Andrea Eriksson (100 breaststroke). Diver Elissa Mason also advanced to the Regional Championship.

The team finished 18th at the State Meet, the best season finish ever in RHS swimming history! Congratulations to Coach Ed Merkling and the 2006 Rebel Girls' Swim Team!

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