

Church bond case is settled

WICHITA (AP) — The ill-fated Faith Metro Church bond default, in which 800 investors bought \$10.8 million in bonds, was settled by state regulators for \$150,000, Kansas Securities Commissioner David Brant announced Wednesday.

The settlement with MMR Investment Bankers, Inc. — the Andover firm which sold the bonds — closes the books on efforts by investors to get back \$8.3 million in defaulted bonds. A bankruptcy proceeding recovered \$4.2 million.

"The tragedy in this case is the trust

that was put in the minister and the church and those involved in the bond issue," Brant said in a telephone interview from his Topeka office.

Gerald Martin Jr., chief executive officer of MMR, said Wednesday that he was out of town and did not wish to discuss the case in depth until he had a chance to see what the securities office had released.

"We are pleased that the matter is concluded and we are continuing to pursue our normal course of business," Martin said.

Martin said he had voluntarily with-

drawn from operating in Kansas, but was doing business in 26 other states.

His attorney, James Roth, did not immediately return a message left at his Wichita office.

The bonds were sold by MMR to finance the building of Faith Metro Church in Wichita and the purchase of a radio station for New Life Fellowship.

Both were under the direction of Rev. David Brace, now serving time in prison for defrauding church investors and laundering money for undercover agents posing as members of a Colombian drug cartel.

Teenagers will still watch 'R' movies

By Michelle DeArmond

Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES — To Matt Casazza and fellow teens, the debate raging over Hollywood's marketing of violent films to youth leaves them with one question: Who cares?

"Sooner or later they're all gonna come out on tape and then you can rent it," the 15-year-old Casazza said. "It doesn't really matter, because they don't card at (video stores)."

Teen-agers across the country were largely unaware of — and uninterested in — the Senate committee hearings under way in Washington on Wednesday in which Hollywood executives admitted marketing movies made for adults to children.

Despite pressure from lawmakers, executives refused to promise an end to the practice. Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential nominee and senator from Casazza's home state of Connecticut, derided movie makers for refusing to "say explicitly that they would stop marketing adult-rated products to our children."

Although many teens said there's too much sex and violence in many films, they agreed with Casazza that Washington is powerless to do much about it.

"I don't think (lawmakers) can stop you from seeing something out there," said Cassidy Hamilton, a 12-year-old resident of the Atlanta suburb of

Woodstock, Ga. "Kids are going to watch what they want, some way."

Sarah Wilson, a 16-year-old resident of Chapel Hill, N.C., said her class at school had discussed the debate over advertising for R-rated movies, which are supposed to be restricted to people 17 and older unless accompanied by a parent. While she goes to R-rated films in theaters, she thinks Hollywood goes overboard on the violence and nudity.

"Most of it's unnecessary anyway," she said. "If they really want kids to watch the movie, then they should put things in it that are appropriate for kids. I think (violence) desensitizes us to things that happen in everyday life."

Another 16-year-old North Carolina girl agreed that R-rated movies are too violent for some young people.

"Little children don't need to be introduced to those things until they're older. What kind of audience are they trying to attract?" asked Emily Alderman of Raleigh, N.C.

One Southern California teen-ager who has been home-schooled said he and his friends try to be selective about the R-rated movies they watch.

"A lot of it is garbage in, garbage out. Know what I mean? The movies tend to play up the sex and the violence," said Matthew Beasley, an Orange County 17-year-old who watched R-rated movies before his recent birthday.

Studio executives said Wednesday

that all R-rated films are not inappropriate for young people and might even be valuable for mature viewers under 17. The executives reminded the Senate Commerce Committee that an "R" rating does not bar children, it only requires they be accompanied by a parent.

Rob White, a 17-year-old from Shelby, N.C., has gone to R-rated movies with his parents.

"Ultimately I think it is the responsibility of the parents," he said. "If the parents are responsible, then I don't think it makes a difference what kids watch."

In the end, teen-agers say they'll continue frequenting R-rated movies because other films simply don't interest them.

"What else is there to go see? Any movie worth going to is R-rated," said Shawn McReedy, a 13-year-old from Woodstock, Ga.

Casazza and his 16-year-old friend Cate Holden agreed, saying they shun "G" and PG-13 movies and "don't do cartoons."

"I don't want to see a G-rated movie," Casazza said. "They can make a PG-13 movie as long as it's not too corny. The Walt Disney movies and stuff ... the happy endings — I don't like that."

On the Net: Motion Picture Association of America: <http://www.mpa.org>; Federal Trade Commission: <http://www.ftc.gov>

Hospital gets good reviews from citizens

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

busy. Shields said the Colby hospital has the nursing home, which is profitable.

Whalen asked if the county commissioners get a report on the hospital. Chaddic said the commissioners get a quarterly report from him and Laue. Laue said the budgeting process for the hospital was starting and Chaddic said they would be presenting it in October.

During board input, Whalen said the hospital needs to be kept in the public eye and he thought the "Slice of Life Benefit Auction" did that.

Shields said they are starting to outgrow the Sugar Hills Country Club and next year they may have to look at holding the auction somewhere else.

Moore said someone else would need to be appointed to take Schoenthaler's place on the Rural Health Ventures' board. Irvin appointed Evert.

Chaddic said he had been told that compared to other hospital newsletters in the area, the Goodland hospital's newsletter was very professionally done.

Board member Lynn Hoelting said he had a friend who died of a heart attack recently while on the Goodland golf course. Hoelting said the man's family had nothing but praise for the emergency medical service, adding that Leon Nielsen, hospital anesthetist, lives close and was there in a couple of minutes. Hoelting commended the entire hospital staff and said their immediate response and fine care was something to be proud of.

Evert, who is a first responder for the Northwest Kansas Emergency Medical Service, commented on the incident.

"We did everything we could and we did it right," he said.

He said the patient wasn't able to be revived, but the care and the quality were there.

Administrator Jim Chaddic said he and his wife had stopped at Darrell and Sharon Mann's house Thursday and they complemented the emergency medical technicians and the emergency room staff for taking care of their son, Craig, before he died.

The board went into closed session for about an hour to discuss personnel.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, in the hospital board room.



Checking for safety

Goodland Greenline, a farm equipment business, participated in the Farm Bureau Safety Day Wednesday morning at Grant Junior High. Employee Randy Rice (above) demonstrated with the aid of a dummy what happens when a person gets tangled up in a power take off. Rice (right) also showed what can happen when a person tries to jump start a tractor while it is in gear.

Photos by Doug Jackson
The Goodland Daily News



Garden City will lose tax money to internet

GARDEN CITY (AP) — Garden City resident Linda Katz has operated Prairie Tumbleweed Farm on the Internet for more than three years.

She has sent tumbleweeds to places as far away as Australia, England and Singapore, and her site has recorded hits from the Vatican to the U.S. Defense Department.

She can't even begin to imagine trying to collect a sales tax: "It's not a local thing. This is a global market."

But with U.S. consumers spending

more than \$13 billion online for retail goods, many government officials are looking hard at how much revenue they may be losing to cyberspace, where online transactions are largely free of sales taxes.

Among them is Vince DiPiazza, assistant city manager in Garden City. He estimates Garden City lost more than \$57,000 in local sales tax revenue to e-commerce in 1999, and in 2000 the loss is expected to top \$127,000.

DiPiazza used a Kansas State University study to arrive at his figures.

Over the next five years, he figures Garden City will lose about \$1.3 million in sales tax revenue to Internet sales.

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