

Investors should be wary of bank scams

By Chris Biggs
I want to warn all Kansas investors to be wary of "prime bank" scams. The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner continually looks for people offering these fictitious investment vehicles. Investing through the supposedly secretive portfolios of prime banks can be appealing to investors. Promoters claim that prime bank trading programs can yield huge returns with no risk. In reality neither prime banks nor the instruments they claim to trade exist. In a typical pitch, increasingly made over the Internet, investors are promised access to secret, high-yield investments made through trades among the world's top banks.

Promoters falsely claim their investments are guaranteed or secured by some sort of collateral or insurance and they represent that common investors can pool their money and invest "like the big boys." Regulators say that many victims of these scams fail to report their losses because they don't want to appear foolish. People want to believe there are secret ways to make fabulous amounts of money. Prime bank scams appeal to those who want to avoid paying taxes through offshore accounts. One reason prime bank scam artists are able to mislead people is because the instruments they claim to be using — standby letters of

credit, bank debentures and bank-secured trading programs, to name a few — mimic legitimate financial instruments closely enough to deceive people outside the specialized world of international banking. Nationwide, these scams result in losses totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Promoters often used investor funds to lead lavish lifestyles. Anthony Montana was sentenced to 44 months in prison on Feb. 17, 2004, in Kansas for operating a Prime Bank scheme from his home in Moundridge via the Internet. In this scam Montana claimed to be "FDIC Insured" and guaranteed 600 percent interest. Both of these claims could have

been red flags to tip off the 32 victims who were scammed out of a total of almost \$85,000 in just over a month's time. First, the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission insures bank deposits and not investments. Second, all investments involve some kind of risk. If anyone offers extremely high, guaranteed, returns then the investor should beware. A phone call from a potential investor alerted the securities commission to Montana's website and made it possible for our investigators to shut down his site and place him under arrest. In prime bank schemes like these, investors should ask themselves, "If this scheme really works, why

is some stranger offering to cut me in on it?" Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is too good to be true. Investors should ask these questions before making any investment: • Are claims realistic? Get a professional, third-party opinion when presented with investment opportunities that seem to offer unusually high returns in comparison to other investment options. Pie-in-the-sky promises often signal investment fraud. • Has the seller given you written information that fully explains the investment? Make sure you get proper written information, such as

a prospectus or offering circular, before you buy. The documentation should contain enough clear and accurate information to allow you or your financial adviser to evaluate and verify the particulars of the investment. Watch for jargon that sounds sophisticated, but doesn't make sense. * Is the salesperson licensed to sell securities in Kansas and is the investment product properly registered with the state securities commission? To check, call the commission's Investor Protection Hotline at 1-888-40-SCAMS. *Chris Biggs is the Kansas Securities*

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

- Gerald W. Cummings and Mary E. Cummings to Merna Dautel Lots 3 and 4, Block 26, First Addition to the City of Goodland.
- Merna Dautel to James J. Schreiber and Toniarae Gladys Schreiber of the part of SW/4 of Sec. 19, T8S, R38W lying south of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad right-of-way except two tracts.
- H. Celia Koudele and Randall W. Koudele convey warrant to Bruce A. Livengood and Kelly J. Livengood the S/2 of Sec. 21, T9S, R42W.
- H. Celia Koudele and Randall W. Koudele convey warrant to Timothy D. Livengood the N/2 of Sec. 21, T9S, R42W.
- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, by Chicago Title Insurance Company, doing business as Servicelink, to Pamela D. Bloom and Tadd R. Bloom the N/2 of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Block 89, Original Town of Goodland.
- Gerald F. Wegner, executor of the estate of Floyd H. Wegner, to Goodwins of Goodland LLC Lots 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, Block 53, Original Town of Goodland.
- Jamie Lou Helmet to Loren E. Sheldon and Kyla R. Sheldon the E1/5' of Lot 15, all of Lots 16 and 17 and the W3' of Lot 18, Block 6, First Addition to the City of Goodland.
- The Sherman County Board of Commissioners conveys and warrants to Frederick J. Stasser Jr. and Rachel V. Stasser a tract in the SE/4 of Sec. 19, T8S, R38W.
- Richard D. and Jolene M. Miller convey warrant to Brian K. Somers and Carolyn R. Somers three tracts in the SW/4 of Sec. 20, T8S, R39W.
- Joseph Cody quit claims to Rose Cody Lots 7 and 8 and the N/4 of Lot 9, Block 13, Third Addition to the City of Goodland.
- Keith H. Kenny to the Keith H. Kenny Trust part of the SE/4 of Sec. 20, T8S, R38W.
- Wallace F. Gattshall, trustee of

the Wallace F. Gattshall Trust, to Wallace F. Gattshall, trustee of the Vera M. Gattshall Revocable Trust the NE/4 of Sec. 26, T6S, R41W.

Wallace F. Gattshall, trustee of the Vera M. Gattshall Trust, to Wallace F. Gattshall, trustee of the Wallace F. Gattshall Revocable Trust, the NW/4 of Sec. 25, T6S, R41W.

Paul Finegan and Karen Finegan convey and warrant to Wallace F. Gattshall, trustee, and any successor trustees of the Wallace F. Gattshall Revocable Trust, the NE/4 of Sec. 26, T6S, R41W.

Almeta M. Hooper of Cleveland County, Okla., to Jeffrey A. First and Scarlett D. First of Texas County, Okla., Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 14, Third Addition to the City of Goodland.

Grassroots Lawn Service to the City of Goodland a tract in the SW/4 of Sec. 20, T8S, R39W.

Richard D. Miller and Jolene M. Miller convey and warrant to the City of Goodland a tract in the SW/4 of Sec. 20, T8S, R39W.

Juanita Whelan to Kenton Donavan Keith the N10' of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12, Block 37,

Academy Addition to the City of Goodland.

Kathleen J. Harris to Sylvio J. Kernal and Jody Sharon Lot 10, Block 3, Eastridge Addition No. 1 to the City of Goodland.

District Traffic

- The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court:
- Feb. 24, 2006:** Orlita M. Palmer was fined \$172 for speeding and \$60 for violating laws on child passenger safety, restraining systems and seatbelts.
- Sept. 20, 2006:** Esther Pedroza was fined \$150 for speeding.
- March 13:** James J. Peirano was fined \$166 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations.
- March 31:** David W. Wise was fined \$215 for speeding.
- April 19:** Lucas C. Powell was fined \$145 for speeding.
- May 13:** Michael A. Warren was fined \$132 for speeding.
- May 14:** Jessica A. Seikel was fined \$156 for speeding.
- May 26:** Dana M. Stewart was fined \$144 for improper parking.
- May 28:** Michael P. Schneider was fined \$66 for violating child passenger safety, restraining sys-

- tems and seat belts.
- June 2:** Lea K. Tomlinson was fined \$126 for violating child passenger safety laws, restraining systems and seat belts.
- June 5:** Stephanie M. Westbrooks was fined \$351 for speeding.
- June 8:** Elena G. Zazuata was fined \$166 for permitting an unauthorized person to drive.
- June 20:** Ashley A. Stageman was fined \$132 for speeding.
- June 22:** Joseph F. Ritzie was fined \$150 for speeding and \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.
- June 25:** Christopher S. Schrader was fined \$174 for speeding.
- June 30:** Jeremy A. Walton was fined \$144 for improper parking.
- July 1:** Claudia L. Rey-Villalva was fined \$144 for speeding and \$60 for violating child passenger safety laws, restraining systems and seat belts.
- July 4:** John K. Roseman was fined \$156 for speeding.
- July 6:** Ruth S. Parada was fined \$219 for speeding and \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.
- Victoria D. Parrott was fined \$156 for speeding.
- Paula M. Shumway was fined

- \$166 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations.
- July 8:** James R. Scott was fined \$174 for speeding.
- July 9:** Michael Pagonis was fined \$126 for speeding.
- July 12:** Sarah K. Schneider was fined \$150 for speeding.
- July 14:** Tracey L. Trout was fined \$126 for speeding.
- July 16:** John W. Packer was fined \$114 for speeding.
- Kiana J. Skinner was fined \$132 for improper parking.
- Christian J. Sullivan was fined \$126 for speeding.
- July 17:** Dane C. Scherling was fined \$114 for improper parking.
- July 18:** Daniel J. Read was fined \$174 for speeding.
- Clait T. Smith was fined \$261 for speeding.
- July 19:** Karyn A. Ward was fined \$132 for speeding.
- July 22:** Jennifer L. Schedin was fined \$166 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations.
- July 23:** Lara E. Strachan was fined \$138 for speeding.
- July 26:** Adam P. Newman was fined \$175 for improper parking.
- Deborah A. Padilla was fined

- \$132 for speeding.
- Todd M. Powers was fined \$120.
- Humberto J. Session was fined \$183 for speeding.
- Janeen R. Wilson was fined \$126 for improper driving on a laned roadway.
- July 27:** Kathleen A. Neu was fined \$126 for speeding.
- Olga L. Valdiva was fined \$132 for speeding.
- July 28:** Alexander Rasas was fined \$144 for improper parking.
- John E. Wanser was fined \$156 for speeding.
- July 30:** Keith A. Welch was fined \$165 for speeding.
- July 31:** Chrystal G. Smith was fined \$126 for speeding.
- Aug. 1:** Muoi V. Nguyen was fined \$126 for improper parking.
- James C. Roberts was fined \$132 for speeding.
- Jonathan S. Ware was fined \$120 for speeding.
- Aug. 2:** Teresa L. Palecki-Eos was fined \$126 for speeding. Her ticket for driving while suspended, first conviction, was dismissed.
- Aug. 3:** Patricia L. Tophinke was fined \$150 for improper parking.

City of Goodland Treasurer's financial statement

For the period from July 1, to September 30, 2007

FUNDS	PREVIOUS BALANCE	RECEIPT	DISBURSEMENT	CURRENT BALANCE
Special Highway	\$115,389.38	\$52,142.13	\$46,964.18	\$120,567.33\$
Self Insurance	\$941,055.76	\$10,589.71	\$794.48	\$950,850.99
Airport Fund	\$317,373.65	\$22,144.10	\$16,078.42	\$323,439.33
General Operating	\$1,926,102.41	\$437,409.51	\$531,454.14	\$1,832,057.78
Bond & Interest	\$173,973.49	\$18,084.76	\$86,275.00	\$105,783.25
Library	-\$126.05	\$11,058.42	\$6,380.34	\$4,552.03
Sales Tax	\$9,363.48	\$58,616.32	\$64,924.09	\$3,055.71
Electric Utility	\$2,286,503.27	\$1,839,973.18	\$1,617,941.72	\$2,508,534.73
Municipal Ct Div Fees	\$11,851.64	\$2,440.48	384.00	\$13,908.12
Law Enforcement	\$28,396.48	\$1,152.82	0.00	\$29,549.30
Electric Meter Deposit	\$129,787.00	\$9,880.00	\$9,400.00	\$130,267.00
Water Utility	\$73,657.77	\$350,022.72	\$246,385.52	\$177,294.97
Water Service Deposit	\$62,370.00	\$6,550.00	\$5,850.00	\$63,070.00
Sewer Utility	\$177,099.37	\$113,569.95	\$80,103.45	\$210,565.87
Special Park & Rec.	\$37,581.35	\$2,856.34	0.00	\$40,437.69
Vehicle Inspections(VIN)	\$17,634.33	\$2,225.22	751.15	\$19,108.40
Grant Imp Reserve Fund	\$335,979.62	\$67,464.85	967.62	\$402,476.85
Street Imp. Project	0.00	\$2,390,885.46	\$28,740.03	\$2,362,145.43
Solid Waste	\$55,875.86	\$87,193.11	\$87,582.69	\$55,486.28
Fire Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airport Improvement	-\$13,000.00	0.00	\$1,145.17	-\$14,145.17
CDBG Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Imp. Reserve	\$2,600,296.41	\$202,623.61	\$92,112.15	\$2,710,807.87
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Benefit	\$419,625.86	\$33,069.22	\$104,125.71	\$348,569.37
Library Emp. Benefit	-\$33.51	\$838.21	\$324.11	\$480.59
State Water Fund	\$4,198.85	\$5,235.81	\$2,315.34	\$7,119.32
Cemetery-Perp. Care	\$82,500.00	0.00	0.00	\$82,500.00
Cemetery Endowment	\$78,050.79	\$1,700.00	0.00	\$79,750.79
Cemetery Improvement	\$101,993.52	\$4,635.72	0.00	\$106,629.24
Replacement Tree	\$291.16	\$2.54	0.00	\$293.70
Electric Reserve	\$1,799,876.28	\$45,034.06	0.00	\$1,844,910.34
Water Reserve	\$856,831.68	\$8,853.72	0.00	\$865,685.40
Water System Imp Proj.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA	0.00	\$2,914.86	\$2,914.86	0.00
Sewer Reserve	\$664,493.62	\$23,073.72	0.00	\$687,567.34
M.E.R.F.	\$2,493,532.23	\$130,092.50	\$5,970.68	\$2,617,654.05
Total	\$15,788,525.70	\$5,942,333.05	\$3,039,884.85	\$18,690,973.90

	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE
AVAILABLE CASH		
Cashier's Change	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Checking Accounts:		
BANKWEST	\$800,467.61	\$3,298,126.74
Investments	\$14,986,058.09	\$15,390,847.16
Total Available Cash	\$15,788,525.70	\$18,690,973.90
LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS		
ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN		\$1,738,850.69
STEEVER PARK PROJECT LEASE PURCHASE		\$719,626.52
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2007		\$2,400,000.00
TOTAL		\$4,858,477.21

I, Janeil Dilling, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.
Signature
City Treasurer

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of McPherson Township, Sherman County will meet on the 23rd day of October, 2007 at 7:00 P.M., at Gerald Anderson Residence, for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at Gerald Anderson Res. and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2008 Expenditures and Amount of 2007 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2008 budget. Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	2006		2007		Proposed Budget 2008	
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Estimate of Expenditure	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2007 Ad Valorem Tax Rate*
General	2,389	0	5,185	3,909	5,190	203.2
Special Machinery Fund						1.089
Totals	2,389	0	5,185	3,909	5,190	203.2
Less: Transfers						
Net Expenditures	2,389		5,185	3,909	5,190	
Total Tax Levied						
Assessed Valuation:						
Township	2,094,772		1,948,816		1,866,372	
City	0		0		0	
Total	2,094,772		1,948,816		1,866,372	

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1

	2004	2005	2006
G.O. Bonds			
No-Fund Warrants			
Lease Purchase Principal			
Total			

* Tax Rates are expressed in mills.

Janeil Dilling
Township Officer

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