

Woman posts a picture a day on net

By Ron Wilson

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One a day. That sounds like a vitamin, or maybe a doctor's prescription. But one a day has turned out to be part of a creative idea being used by a woman who is sharing photographic images of her community using modern technology.

Karen Johnson is a retired attorney in Johnson County. She lives in the suburban town of Westwood, population 1,521 people, which is part of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. But Karen has rural roots, having grown up in the Rice County town of Alden, population 165 people. Now, that's rural.

Karen's family moved to Hutchinson while she was a girl. She graduated from Hutchinson High School and Hutchin-

son Community College before going to University of Kansas. There she met and married a guy from Kansas City and that is where they settled.

Karen's husband went on to a 40-year career as a medical photographer with the University of Kansas Medical Center. Karen got her law degree and joined a lawyer in Kansas City.

"There were not a lot of opportunities for women attorneys in those days," Karen said.

When she and her husband had two children, Karen stayed home with the kids. She later went back into law practice and retired from a large Kansas City-area law firm. One family pursuit which came naturally was photography.

"My husband was a professional photographer," Karen said. "He was also a post-polio patient, so I used to go along sometimes and help with the photo shoots."

She carried cameras and tripods and became an excellent photographer herself.

Their two children naturally picked up the photography bug as well. "My son and daughter are excellent photographers," Karen said. "It seems to run in the family."

In recent years, Karen ventured into the world of Facebook where she could post pictures and communicate electronically with family and friends.

One day Karen and her daughter were having a conversation and the talk turned to her photos. "She knows I like to take pictures and I have lots of them," Karen said. In the course of their discussion, an idea came up: What if she was to post on Facebook one of her pictures from Kansas City every day?

It sounded like fun, and Karen decided to give it a try. She set a goal of one a day: Every day she would post a different photo image relating to her hometown of Kansas

City.

This was not some promotional campaign from the city or the chamber of commerce. It was her own initiative, simply to have some fun and share her photos with others. In true lawyer-like fashion, she developed a list of topics or subjects and organized a schedule for posting them.

"These might be people or events or places or buildings," Karen said. She posts a brief commentary about each one. "They are all taken by me or by my camera." For example, her son used her camera to take a picture of Karen with her grandchildren Lucas and Ruby. That one was posted on Tuesday, Sept. 9 which was Grandparents Day.

"I try to post pictures which are apropos to a given holiday," Karen said. For example, she found a relevant image to post on Labor Day. On the day of the presidential debates, she used a picture of ducks swimming in

the park and asked in her commentary if the candidates would have their ducks in a row?

Her first picture was of Harry Truman's house in Independence, Mo. The list now includes everything from Pick a Peck of Pretty Peppers at a farmers market to statues and fountains to an eagle atop the Wyandotte County Courthouse.

Karen is sharing these attractive images of her community using social media technology. What if other communities or counties would set a goal to post pictures of their special features on a constant basis?

One a day. No, not a medical prescription, this is a daily commitment by this woman photographer to share pictures of her community. We commend Karen Johnson for making a difference by capturing these images and sharing them daily.

Parent iPad training



The Goodland School District held an informational meeting and a question and answer session for parents on Tuesday to go over

its new iPad program. The school district's program, new this year, gives each high student an iPad for educational purposes while

also providing the devices for middle and elementary school students.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Commissioner has tips to avoid Medicare scams

Kansas Medicare beneficiaries should be alert to any potential scams surrounding sign-up activity for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans, according to Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance.

"Unfortunately, not everyone who contacts Medicare-age Kansans about a Medicare drug plan or Medicare Advantage plans has the best intentions," Commissioner Praeger said. "Being smart and alert is very important in fighting potential fraud and illegal sales."

The open-enrollment period for Medicare Prescription Drug Plan and Medicare Advantage plans begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7.

To protect your family members or yourself from scam artists intent on taking advantage of the situation,



**sandy
praeger**

• insurance comm.

Commissioner Praeger offers the following tips.

- Beware of door-to-door salespeople. Agents cannot solicit business for either Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage Plans at your home without an appointment. Do not let uninvited agents into your home. Also, Medicare has no official sales representatives. Beware of any salesperson who says that he/she is a Medicare representative.
- Check with us at the Kansas Insurance Department to make sure

the salesperson is a licensed agent. Call (800) 432-2484 to speak with a Consumer Assistance representative.

- No marketing in educational or care settings is allowed. Federal regulations prohibit the marketing of Medicare products at an educational event or in places where health care is delivered.

- No free lunches, either. Federal regulations prohibit offers of free meals for listening to a sales presentation for a Medicare product or for signing up for a particular plan.

- Medicare beneficiaries are urged not to give out personal information, such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone not verified as a licensed agent. Salespeople are not allowed to request such personal information in their marketing activities and cannot ask for payment over the Internet. They must send the beneficiary a bill. Once he or she has decided to purchase a plan and has verified that the agent is licensed, the customer may give the agent personal information to assist in enrollment and billing.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by Sherman County, Kansas at 813 Broadway in Goodland, Kansas for the construction of:

RENOVATION OF 1006 CENTER STREET BUILDING SHERMAN COUNTY AMBULANCE / RURAL FIRE

Until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday the 31st day of October, 2012 at which time the Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud.

Copies of the Drawings, and other contract documents are on file and available for public inspection at the Sherman County County Clerks Office, 813 Broadway, Goodland, Kansas 67735, Telephone No. 785/ 890-4806, Fax No. 785/ 890-4809; and BG Consultants, Inc., 4806 Vue Du Lac Place, Manhattan, Kansas 66503, Telephone No. 785/ 537-7448 x 1104, Fax No. 785/ 537-8793, Email: dan@bgcons.com.

A complete set of the Contract Documents may be obtained by a prospective bidder by sending a cash payment of Sixty-Three Dollars (\$63.00) along with a written request for a said set of Documents addressed to: BG CONSULTANTS, INC., 4806 VUE DU LAC PLACE, MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66503. This is a non-refundable plan deposit to cover the cost of plan and specification reproductions. The Contract Documents are also available, in PDF format, for FREE download upon request. Please email request for electronic files to Dan Hall at dan@bgcons.com.

The amount of Bid Security to be furnished by each Bidder is stated in the Instructions to Bidders. The Bidder to whom a contract is awarded will be required to furnish acceptable Performance and statutory Bonds. A Bidder may withdraw any Bid he has submitted at any time prior to the hour for the closing of the Bids provided the request for withdrawal is signed in a manner identical with the Bid being withdrawn. No withdrawal or modification will be permitted after the hour designated for closing Bids. No Bidder may withdraw his proposed Bid for a period of Thirty (30) days after the date and hour set for the opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive formalities in considering Bids and to accept the Bid which in its opinion is the best Bid.

Principal Items of Work Are:

Renovation of Existing Building approximately 132'-6" x 144'-4" in size
Demolition, Concrete Replacement, Windows and Doors, Overhead Sectional Doors, Interior Partitions and Finishes, HVAC Systems, Plumbing, Electrical

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FOR OUR TROOPS

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Halloween Candy
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Thursday, Nov. 1
Monday - Thursday, Nov. 5-8

Accepting wrapped
candy from children
accompanied by
an adult

The candy will be sent
overseas to our
troops through

OPERATION GRATITUDE
SENDING CARE PACKAGES TO OUR TROOPS



If the child writes
a letter or draws a
picture for the
troops they will receive
a free toothbrush kit
and prize

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Dentistry**



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Jason Ehtessabian, DDS, PC
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m.

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**Sunday, October 21st at 2 p.m.
Colby Community Building**

For more information, contact:
Kim Weigel • sweigel@st-tel.net