

COMMUNITY

Generalizing about Baby Boomers



By Dorothy Rosby

The headline on my internet newsfeed read “9 laughable things that will die off with baby boomers — how many are you still doing?” I’m a baby boomer. I clicked on the headline.

The list included refusing to use cruise control, believing everything on cable news and keeping a formal living room for guests only. It turns out I don’t have any of the laughable behaviors listed. I do, however, have other laughable behaviors and one of them is clicking on dumb headlines in my newsfeed. I don’t think that one is confined to baby

boomers.

We all know how the internet works. There are little elves in cyberspace whose job is to assist internet users and make lots of money for their tech giant masters. They spend their days gathering articles with the same perspective as the ones we click on and sticking them in our newsfeeds so that we’ll keep on clicking. Neither the tech giants nor the elves care that the poor hapless clicker is getting a skewed view of the world. And my view became that baby boomers were being picked on.

Over the course of several days I got, among many other headlines, “Seven harsh truths about working with boomers,” “Outdated phrases boomers still use that instantly trigger social anxiety,” and “Things baby boomers were taught in school that aren’t true.” They kept coming because I kept clicking on them. If I’d had the good sense to click on a link for how to make blueberry pie, I’d be getting blueberry pie recipes instead.

Luckily, my column provides me with a platform to make a well-reasoned case against

whomever or whatever is bothering me at the moment. Or at least, a case. So here goes:

One of the headlines I clicked on was “15 things boomers keep in their homes that no one uses anymore.” Right off the bat I was annoyed. To say “no one” uses something is a sweeping generalization. My husband and I are not “no ones.” While we don’t have rolodexes, alarm clocks or encyclopedias, we do have check registers. They go with our checkbooks. And we use them—when we remember to.

Maps were another item on the list. My husband uses both maps and GPS to navigate. I use both GPS and my husband to navigate. But I’d use maps too if I could read them. They’re never out of the service area and they never need charging.

A similar article was titled, “Everything that will disappear with the baby boomer generation (fingers crossed).” I don’t dispute that fax machines, couches wrapped in plastic and wearing suits and ties to work will all go the way of the T. rex. And I won’t miss them either. I never wrapped my coach in plastic or wore a suit and tie to work anyway.

But I definitely don’t have my “fingers crossed” about some items on the list disappearing. For example, I feel part of an elite group because my car has a manual transmission. I have that feeling so rarely that I’d like to hang on to it.

Nor do I have my fingers crossed that both cash and checks vanish. If checks go, what will I do with my check register?

Coincidentally I read that article shortly after I mailed checks to three graduates in my life. Apparently they’re happy I still use checks because they all cashed them.

What bothered me most about all the articles was that they generalized, as though boomers are all alike. *Boomers do this... boomers keep that.* That’s exactly how some boomers generalize about millennials and Gen Zers, only more annoying—to a boomer anyway.

Salina Rescue Mission Needs List

Items needed at the Salina Rescue Mission this month include:

- Antacids
- Coffee
- Cough Drops
- Powdered Milk
- Salad Dressing

Donations may be delivered seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to the Mission located at 1716 Summers Road in Salina.

Prefer to shop online? Check out our Amazon Wishlist at <https://a.co/eKVZzaS> to send items directly to the Mission.

Thank you for caring for our homeless neighbors – your support makes a lasting impact!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.”

~Joyce Meyer

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Kansas Farm Bureau VOTE FBF Endorses Incumbent Dawn Wolf for 107th House District

The Ottawa County Farm Bureau has announced that Kansas Farm Bureau VOTE FBF has officially endorsed incumbent Representative Dawn Wolf in her bid for re-election to the 107th District of the Kansas House of Representatives.

Local agricultural leaders highlighted Wolf’s proven track record and dedication to rural communities as key factors behind the endorsement. Ottawa County Farm Bureau representatives expressed strong confi-

dence in her ability to continue advocating for the district’s agricultural and economic priorities in the state capitol.

“We believe she has the experience, values, and leadership to represent our county well in Topeka,” the organization stated in its announcement.

Wolf, who currently serves District 107, will carry the official Political Action Committee endorsement of Kansas Farm Bureau as she seeks to maintain her seat in the state legislature.

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