

A Cup of Grace to Open With Focus on Coffee, Health, Community

Coffee Shop Grand Opening July 28

Gabe Stark
Reporter

A Cup of Grace will soon open its doors in Trenton, offering customers a combination of traditional coffeehouse favorites, protein drinks, sugar-free options and products designed to complement an active lifestyle.

The Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new business at noon Tuesday, July 28. A Cup of Grace is located at 916 Harris Ave. in the same building as The Daily, a gym and wellness business.

Owner William Schroll said the coffee shop was developed as part of a larger vision to bring coffee,

CUP OF GRACE
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SUBMITTED

Ashlynn Davis represented Trenton Middle School at the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Davis Earns Silver at FCCLA National Conference

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Trenton Middle School student Ashlynn Davis earned a silver rating while representing her school at the 2026 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

The conference, held July 6-10, brought together more than 10,000 FCCLA members, advisers and guests from across the United States, Puerto Rico and American Samoa. Davis was among 231 Missouri students who competed at the national event.

Davis competed in the Fashion Construction STAR Event, presenting an outfit she designed and sewed. The project included flared

DAVIS

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GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Howard's Department Store in downtown Trenton is preparing to close after serving area shoppers for more than five decades.

Howard's Department Store Closing After More Than Five Decades In Business

Gabe Stark
Reporter

After more than five decades of serving area shoppers, Howard's Department Store is preparing to close its doors in downtown Trenton.

The family-owned store at 1000

Main St. has been a familiar part of the downtown business district for 55 years, offering clothing, shoes and personal service through generations of change in the retail industry.

Howard's became more than a place to shop. Customers could try on merchandise, compare sizes

and receive help from employees who knew the products and often knew the shoppers themselves.

Kevin Noel, son of longtime owners Elvin and Peggy Noel,

HOWARD'S

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Cup of Grace

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fitness and wellness services together under one roof.

"I wanted to open a coffee shop for a multitude of reasons," Schroll said. "I knew for sure we were going to do the gym and the wellness side, and I thought coffee would be a perfect combination."

While the businesses operate separately, Schroll said their services naturally complement one another. Customers could stop for a coffee or pre-workout drink before exercising, meet a friend after a workout or enjoy a drink before or after using the wellness services.

Schroll said the overall goal is to create a gathering place that encourages healthier choices and helps bring people together.

Bailey and Kristin Owen will handle much of the daily operation of A Cup of Grace, while Schroll provides business guidance and management support. Schroll said the three are working together as partners and emphasized that each person plays an important role in the business.



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

A Cup of Grace, located at 916 Harris Ave. in Trenton, will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon Tuesday, July 28.

"They had a huge amount of ambition," Schroll said. "The goal is for them to operate it and for me to help manage and teach them the business side."

Schroll said customer service will be one of the company's highest priorities.

"Customer experience is by far the No. 1 thing," Schroll said. "Whether it is the product or the service, we want to focus on quality."

The shop's menu will include

regular coffee choices and a variety of sugar-free drinks. It will also feature protein coffees, hydration drinks and optional additions such as collagen and creatine.

Kristin, part owner, said the selection was partly inspired by her own difficulty finding coffee drinks that were not overly sweet.

"Not many places had a lot of sugar-free options, and adding the extra sugar made the coffee too sweet for me," she said.

Schroll said the products were selected based on items he and the other operators already use and believe in.

"Everything here is something that I believe in," he said. "The products we sell are products we were already consuming before we ever started this."

Convenience will also be a major part of the business. A Cup of Grace will have a drive-through, and customers will be able to order ahead through the shop's website. The name A Cup of Grace was chosen as a reminder that people should not expect perfection from themselves, particularly while balancing family, work and other responsibilities.

"As a mom, it's really hard to give yourself grace and remember you're not perfect," Kristin said. "I have to remember to give myself grace as a mom, as a wife and in everything in between. That is where the name came from."

Although the owners describe the business as Christian-based, they said the shop is intended to welcome people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

"We don't want anybody to feel judged," Schroll said. "We believe what we believe, but everybody is welcome to come in and enjoy some coffee."

TRENTON TELEGRAPH

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Howard's

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said the store's history is deeply connected to his family.

"It's been my life," Noel said. "It just gets in your blood."

The family's connection to retail in Trenton began before Howard's opened. Noel said his grandfather previously operated a shoe store called Family Shoe. The operation later expanded to include Friends in Chillicothe and JP Fashions in Cameron. All three stores are now holding going-out-of-business sales.

Several generations of the Noel family worked behind the counter, selected merchandise and helped customers find clothing and shoes. Noel began working at the store as a child.

"I've only been on the payroll since I was 8, so I've been doing this my whole life," Noel said.

Howard's remained a downtown anchor as shopping shifted from locally owned stores to national

chains and online retailers.

"When I was growing up, every dollar that was spent locally would turn in town seven times before it left the community," Noel said. "Nowadays, you've got people going straight to Amazon, and so that money never stays local."

Despite those changes, Howard's continued offering personal service that online shopping could not easily replace. Employees could suggest sizes, recommend styles and help customers find outfits for work, school or special occasions.

The store's legacy is also tied to downtown Trenton. Elvin Noel was active in efforts to strengthen the business district and encourage investment in downtown properties.

"He would just be tickled to death to see people stopping and walking from shop to shop," Noel said. "That would have just warmed his heart."

The family chose to close all three stores rather than continue operating only one location.

"I couldn't pick one store to

close," Noel said. "They're all part of my blood, and I couldn't pick a favorite to keep open."

Rather than selling the businesses, the family decided to hold closing sales. Noel said the process has allowed longtime customers to return and share memories with the family.

"She has been getting to see the fruit of her labor," Noel said of his mother. "She gets to have some closure."

Although Howard's is closing, the family owns the Trenton building and has not decided what will eventually occupy the space. Noel said another family-operated venture could someday open under a different name.

"We don't want to end that," Noel said. "It'll be under a different name. It'll be something. Who knows?"

Howard's may be closing, but its influence will remain in the memories of customers and in the downtown district the Noel family spent years helping support.

Trenton Native's 50-Year Legacy Inspires Generations Through Art

Gabe Stark
Reporter

What began in the gardens of her grandmother's home in Trenton has blossomed into a five-decade legacy of creativity, education and healing for one of central Oregon's most respected artists.

Trenton native Marlene Moore Alexander, now a longtime resident of Bend, Oregon, was recently recognized in Bend Magazine for her 50 years as an artist, teacher and advocate for arts in health-care. The feature highlights a career that has influenced thousands of students while transforming public spaces, hospitals and the local arts community.

Alexander, who graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1968 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking, moved to Bend in 1971. Five years later, she founded Creative Arts, an art school that continues to teach children and adults today.

Despite building an acclaimed career nearly 1,700 miles from her hometown, Alexander credits her Missouri roots with shaping the artist she became.

"My grandmother taught me how to see," Alexander said in the magazine feature. "She was always pointing out colors and textures."

Those early lessons developed into what she describes as a photographic memory, allowing her to notice details in nature that inspire her work. Drawing from



SUBMITTED

Marlene Moore Alexander, a Trenton native, stands in the Bend, Oregon, classroom where she has inspired generations of students through art for the past 50 years.

the landscapes of central Oregon, Alexander creates paintings using oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, alcohol ink, gold leaf and collage. Her artwork has been exhibited in galleries across the country and earned numerous regional and national honors.

While her paintings have received widespread recognition, Alexander's greatest impact may be found in the generations of students she has mentored.

For 50 years, she has encouraged children to embrace creativity and individuality, often reminding them to "jump out of the box and be you."

Former students include community leaders, healthcare professionals and artists who continue

to credit Alexander with helping shape their confidence and careers.

Many families have returned generation after generation, with parents who once took Alexander's classes later enrolling their own children.

Her commitment to nurturing creativity never wavered, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alexander modified her studio with plexiglass barriers and air purification systems so students could continue creating art safely.

Alexander's influence extends well beyond the classroom.

Believing that "art is healing for the soul," she became a pioneer in bringing art into healthcare settings. She helped establish

Arts in the Hospital at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend in 1990, coordinating the program for 12 years while introducing visual art, music, writing and other creative experiences for patients, visitors and staff.

Her work included developing mobile art carts for patient rooms, organizing rotating art galleries and helping individuals facing life-changing injuries rediscover creative expression.

Hospital staff interviewed for the magazine credited Alexander with transforming the atmosphere of St. Charles through art, calling her contributions instrumental in changing how healing spaces were experienced by patients and families.

Today, Alexander remains active as both an artist and teacher. Surrounded by photographs of hundreds of former students in her Bend studio, she continues to inspire new generations while staying connected with many she taught decades ago.

Reflecting on a career spanning half a century, Alexander said her passion has never faded.

"I still love what I do as much as when I started," she said.

For friends and former classmates in Trenton, Alexander's story is a reminder that the curiosity first nurtured in a Missouri garden has grown into a lifetime devoted to helping others discover the beauty of seeing the world through creative eyes.

Davis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

jeans with a lace inset and a coordinating top.

She titled the project "Ashlynn Rae's Buttons and Bows" after incorporating blue bows and bow-shaped buttons throughout the outfit. Her work earned a silver rating from the national judges.

Davis said the conference challenged her to grow both personally and professionally.

"I learned the importance of leadership, teamwork and perseverance while connecting with students from across the country who share the same passion for making a difference," she said. "I was able to bring home new ideas and skills that I will carry with

me into my future."

Davis, a seventh-grade student, serves as vice president of the Trenton Middle School FCCLA chapter. She plans to use what she learned at the conference to help lead local service projects, encourage other students to participate in STAR Events and help fellow members develop their leadership skills.

In addition to competing, Davis and the Trenton Middle School group toured several Washington, D.C. landmarks. The group took a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol and visited the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The chapter also participated in an FCCLA rally on Capitol

Hill, where members promoted the importance of career and technical education programs. FCCLA is incorporated into Family and Consumer Sciences classes and gives students opportunities to develop leadership, communication, workplace readiness and problem-solving skills.

The 2026 conference coincided with events commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary. Participants attended leadership sessions, educational workshops, career exploration programs and networking activities designed to connect classroom lessons with future careers.

TMS FCCLA adviser Joy Bridges said the conference allowed students to see the opportunities

available to them through the organization.

"For our chapter, the National Leadership Conference was more than a trip," Bridges said. "It was an opportunity to see what is possible when students are given the skills, support and confidence to lead."

Bridges also thanked the businesses and organizations that helped make the trip possible. Tractor Supply Co. allowed the chapter to conduct a bake sale, while the Trenton Elks Lodge, BTC Bank and Modine provided donations.

"We very much appreciate the community support we received to help our students attend this conference," Bridges said. "We are grateful for their generosity."



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Art's Alive Features Slate Of Community Events

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Art's Alive is building on the success of its first full season of programming with a new lineup of concerts, community theater and family-friendly events planned for 2026-27.

The nonprofit organization recently previewed the upcoming season, which will include four concerts, a community theater production and the fourth annual holiday gingerbread contest. The season is presented in partnership with the Trenton High School Fine Arts Department, with most performances scheduled in the Trenton Performing Arts Center.

Art's Alive began in 2019 by organizing one event at a time before expanding into its first complete season last year. During the season preview, organizers looked back at the performances and activities that helped the organization reach new audiences and provide more opportunities for local artists.

The past season included touring musicians, the French Family Band, a production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap," the annual gingerbread contest and a St. Patrick's Day concert by Winsome and Friends.

Organizers said the French Family Band attracted visitors from throughout the region, including people who traveled from St. Joseph, Omaha and Hannibal. The group has since returned to the Grand Ole Opry and released another album.

The season also created opportunities for area performers and directors. Elizabeth Hackathorn made her directing debut with "The Mousetrap," while Winsome and Friends closed the concert season with a program featuring local musicians and Irish-themed songs.

"I think that's been a really special thing for our series, to get to do something that is local," Elizabeth Hackathorn, an Art's Alive representative said.

Local talent will again be featured during the coming season through a production of the comedy "Play On"

Art's Alive is a nonprofit



GABE STARK/
STAFF PHOTO
**Art's Alive
board members
and supporters
gather during the
organization's
recent appreciation
banquet to celebrate
its first full season
and preview the
2026-27 schedule
of concerts, theater
and community
events.**

organization led by a 15-member board of directors. Its stated mission is to provide affordable entertainment, promote fine arts education and expose residents of Grundy County and surrounding communities to the arts in their many forms.

At Art's Alive recent appreciation banquet, the organization's leaders thanked the community for supporting the cause through donations, which make the performances possible. Organizers said Art's Alive has raised nearly \$20,000 in sponsorships in the past three years.

"It really does take more than season tickets to be able to afford to put a season on like this," Director Amy Guthrie said. "We do need sponsors to make it work."

Sponsorship letters are expected to be mailed soon. Sponsors are recognized at each event and may receive season tickets depending on their level of support.

The 2026-27 season will begin with "It Takes Two — A Legendary Duo Revue" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in the Trenton Performing Arts Center. Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann of Letters From Home will present a musical and comedy tribute to famous duos, ranging from Johnny Cash and June Carter to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Lindley Creek, a family bluegrass band from southern Missouri, will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. The group combines traditional bluegrass with modern influences and features Kathie Greer, John Greer, Katie Greer and Jase Greer.

The community theater production "Play On" will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Directed by Hackathorn, the comedy follows a theater group desperately trying to stage a show while its author continually revises the script. The increasingly chaotic rehearsals lead to a final performance in which nearly everything that can go wrong does.

The fourth annual gingerbread contest will be held Friday, Dec. 4, during Trenton's downtown Christmas festivities sponsored by Trenton Five Points Alive. Prizes will be awarded in several categories, and visitors will vote for the People's Choice Award.

Ventriloquist and comedian Todd Oliver will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, 2027. Oliver's family-friendly show features Irving the Talking Dog and a rotating cast of characters, along with comedy, magic, music and audience participation. His television appearances have included "America's Got Talent" and "The Tonight Show."

The season will conclude with local favorite Slow Leak at 7 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2027. The band blends bluegrass, folk and acoustic harmonies with original songs inspired by heartbreak, happiness, triumphs and difficult times. Members include Cree Mullenix, Sean Cleary, Bob Gass, Dirk Ellis and Travis Mullenix.

Tickets will be sold at the Trenton Hy-Vee customer service desk and Dynamic Tax & Accounting. Individual tickets will be offered approximately two weeks before each event.

Partnership Creates College Pathway for Skilled Trades Instructors

North Central Missouri College is partnering with the Carpenters International Training Fund and the University of Central Missouri to help skilled trades instructors turn their professional training and experience into college credentials.

Under the five-year agreement, NCMC will offer an Associate of Applied Science in Applied Technology pathway for instructors affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. After completing the associate degree, participants may continue their education at UCM through the NCMC-UCM Direct Connect partnership.

The program brings together industry training, community college coursework and university degree completion to create a more accessible path for working professionals. Approximately 500 instructors are expected to receive training and certification through the partnership each year.

"North Central Missouri College is proud to be part of a partnership that meets students where they are and helps them move forward," NCMC President Lenny Klaver said.

"Many of these participants bring years of professional experience and leadership in the skilled trades," Klaver said. "Our role is to help translate that experience into a meaningful academic pathway while helping students navigate transcripts, prior coursework and the first steps of returning to college."



SUBMITTED

Representatives from North Central Missouri College, the University of Central Missouri and the Carpenters International Training Fund gather in recognition of a new partnership creating college degree pathways for skilled trades instructors.

NCMC will assist participants with admissions, transcript reviews, previous coursework and the recognition of applicable training and professional experience.

Faculty and staff from NCMC, UCM and the Carpenters International Training Fund are also working to align industry instruction with college-level learning requirements. The effort is designed to reduce duplicated coursework and help participants progress more efficiently toward certificates and degrees.

In some cases, training completed through the fund and coursework completed through UCM may count toward NCMC's associate degree requirements. The arrangement allows students to build on their existing education and professional experience rather than starting over.

The Applied Technology degree

recognizes participants' technical expertise while helping them develop additional skills for advancement in education, training and leadership. Graduates may then pursue UCM's Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies and Training. Additional credentials may be available in industry education, career and technical education and safety science.

"This partnership reflects UCM's commitment to workforce development and educational opportunities that support skilled trades professionals across North America," UCM President Roger Best said.

"By working with NCMC and UBC, we are helping create a pathway that recognizes applied learning, supports career advancement and connects industry training to meaningful academic credentials," Best said.

The Carpenters International Training Fund is the training division of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, which represents more than 530,000 members in the United States and Canada. The fund provides curriculum development, instructor education and technical and leadership training.

Training takes place at the Carpenters International Training Center in Las Vegas, which serves approximately 15,000 members annually. The facility includes more than 70 classrooms, conference spaces and technical laboratories.

"Our members and contractors depend on world-class training, and that starts with world-class instructors," fund Executive Director Bob Jacobson said.

"This partnership gives our instructors new opportunities to earn academic credentials while enhancing their ability to deliver the industry-leading training that has become the hallmark of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters," Jacobson said.

Initial discussions began in June 2025, and the first course was offered in November. Six instructor certification courses began during the spring 2026 semester. Courses connected to NCMC's Applied Technology degree are expected to begin during the summer and fall 2026 terms.

The three organizations plan to continue identifying ways to recognize prior learning, align coursework and develop additional educational pathways for apprenticeship instructors nationwide.

Pomp & Circumstance

Students at Missouri State University were recently recognized for earning degrees during the spring 2026 semester.

Laura Black of Trenton was among the Missouri State graduates for the semester. Black graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in special education/cross categorical.

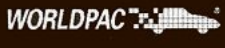
Jaica Clark of Trenton also graduated from Missouri State University. Clark earned a Bachelor

of Science in psychology, graduating cum laude.

Students graduating with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.5.

"Pomp & Circumstance" includes names of local students who received a degree from a college, university, trade school or other post-secondary institution. To submit information about student achievements, email Gabe Stark at gstark@cherryroad.com.


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Harris Begins Term as Trenton Rotary Club President

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Kristi Harris has begun her term as president of the Trenton Rotary Club with plans to strengthen the organization's community service efforts, expand fundraising and help position the club for future growth.

"I'm passionate about serving our community, and the Trenton Rotary Club provided a meaningful way to put that passion into action," Harris said. "I was drawn to its mission of service and the opportunity to work alongside others who share that same commitment."

Harris said being chosen to lead the club is an honor, although she initially questioned whether she was ready to accept the responsibility.

"At first, I wasn't sure I was ready

to take on the role, but I've come to see it as a natural extension of my values as a servant leader," Harris said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to help guide the club's efforts and make a positive impact in our community."

During her term, Harris said the club will focus on maintaining consistent community service while working toward long-term financial stability. Members also plan to introduce an additional fundraiser that could provide more resources for local projects and charitable giving.

The club will continue developing its established programs while reviewing ways to improve its current efforts.

"The goal is not only to improve how we serve today, but to position the club for even greater effectiveness and growth in the future," Harris said.

Among the club's major local projects is a shoe collection drive that benefits children through the Bright Futures program. Rotary members also organize and plan the annual Missouri Day Parade, a long-standing Trenton tradition.

When funding is available, the club contributes to playground improvements, community organizations, charitable causes and other local initiatives. Harris said members also volunteer throughout the community, both through Rotary projects and independently with nonprofit organizations.

While much of the Trenton club's work is local, Harris said the public may not realize the extent of Rotary's international efforts. Rotary clubs around the world support projects involving disease prevention, clean water, education, economic development and

environmental sustainability.

One of Rotary International's best-known efforts is its campaign to eradicate polio.

"What makes Rotary unique is that it connects local service with global purpose," she said. "Members can make a difference right here in Trenton while also contributing to meaningful change around the world."

Harris said the club welcomes people who are interested in service, community involvement and building relationships. Those interested in learning more may contact Harris or another Trenton Rotarian.

"Rotary is a great way to get involved, build relationships and contribute to meaningful service both locally and globally," Harris said. "We'd love to share more about what we do and explore how others can become part of it."

Health Department Announces Updated WIC Income Guidelines

The Grundy County Health Department has announced updated income eligibility guidelines for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, reflecting annual adjustments made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The revised guidelines are based on 185% of the federal poverty guidelines and determine eligibility for Missouri residents seeking

WIC benefits.

WIC provides nutrition services for pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children through age 5. Program services include healthy supplemental foods, nutrition risk assessments, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, as well as health screenings and referrals to medical and other community services.

To qualify for WIC, applicants must live in Missouri, meet income guidelines and be determined to be at nutritional risk.

Individuals who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance or most Missouri HealthNet programs are automatically considered income-eligible for WIC.

The published income limits are based on gross (pre-tax) household income. Pregnant women may count as two family members when determining eligibility.

Under the updated guidelines, annual income limits are:

Household of one: \$29,526
Household of two: \$40,034
Household of three: \$50,542

Household of four: \$61,050

The health department noted that complete income guidelines for larger family sizes are available through the Missouri WIC program.

WIC services in Grundy County are administered by the Grundy County Health Department, located at 1716 Lincoln in Trenton. Clinics are available by appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information or to apply for WIC benefits, contact the Grundy County Health Department at (660) 359-4196.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In Re: Christine Lynn Kincaid-Sahagun

Case No. 26AG-DR00041

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that by an Order of the Circuit Court of the County of Grundy, Missouri, Division I, Case No. 26AG-DR00041 made and entered on the

PUBLIC NOTICE

record on July 7, 2026, the name of Christine Lynn Kincaid-Sahagun was to change to Christine Lynn Kincaid.

/s/ Becky Stanturf
Circuit Clerk

Published in Trenton Telegraph July 17, 24, 31, 2026.
4720960

PUBLIC NOTICE

In Re: Sarah Kathleen Mosbacher

Case No. 26AG-DR00052

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that by an Order of the Circuit Court of the County of Grundy, Missouri, Division I, Case No. 26AG-DR00052 made and entered on the record on

PUBLIC NOTICE

July 7, 2026, the name of Sarah Kathleen Mosbacher was to change to Sarah Kathleen Hedrick.

/s/ Becky Stanturf
Circuit Clerk

Published in Trenton Telegraph July 17, 24, 31, 2026.
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Beyond Reason: The Tricorn Hat

By Rob Perez
Columnist

The Founding Fathers were remarkable men. Giants, really. Their understanding of humanity. Government. History. Human nature. Their foresight. Their vision. Their clarity of thought. They saw farther than almost anyone before them. Possibly anyone since. And now I think I know why.

It was the tricorn hat.

Some may protest: Rob, a hat is an adornment. An accessory for the head. A hat does not speak to the mind and soul of what lies beneath it.

Maybe. Maybe not.

I spent the better part of the fourth of July in a tricorn hat. Not at a reenactment at Colonial Williamsburg. Not in a parade. I was needed in the yard. I wasn't trying to be funny. I was simply headed outdoors for a long stint and needed a hat. It was the fourth of July, and The Wife had ordered a couple of tricorn hats and, on my way out, I grabbed the brown one.

Let me clarify: my wife ordered

an eighteenth-century hat from Amazon and had it delivered directly to our door. George Washington crossed the Delaware for his tricorn. I crossed my threshold. Barely. I opened the door and reached. A very, very little.

I put on the tricorn and went about my tasks. I should mention that in a tricorn, you don't have jobs. You have tasks.

My tasks that day were mowing and edging. Have you ever seen someone mowing and edging — in a tricorn hat? Well, on the fourth, it was I!

I assumed a tricorn was a trifle, a novelty. I underestimated this headgear. A tricorn is not uncomfortable. It's something you put on — and move on with your day. It's only when neighbors slow down and point in your direction do you remember — that you are, in fact, up to something.

The brim stays out of your eyes. The shade it offers is wide. It doesn't flop; it holds. It's just a hat. No signage.

It's a hat. With three corners.

The Founding Fathers did not

invent the tricorn. It came from Europe. Good artists borrow; great artists steal. Let me tell you that our founding fathers knew how to steal.

A tricorn may not instill grit. Back in the day, many a layabout sported this hat and accomplished exactly zilch. Nada. Zippo. They waited. And nothing happened. But others donned the tricorn already imbued with grit. A good tricorn, well, it adds.

Once you set about your tasks in a tricorn, you complete them. In a baseball cap, you might mow the front and then grab some lemonade. In a tricorn, however, you mow until there is nothing left to mow. Then you edge like the world needs edging. Finally, you pull weeds. That's on a Monday.

A tricorn encourages follow-through, pride. Better posture. I take myself a little more seriously. Whatever I'm doing in a tricorn has to be important.

Perhaps it alters your vernacular. A passerby with a dog says, 'Hello.' To which you reply, 'Good day, citizen!'

History gives us very few true

Renaissance men. Leonardo da Vinci was one. Benjamin Franklin was another: inventor. Scientist. Diplomat. Then he put on a tricorn. And he added wit.

And now I see how they did it. The Declaration of Independence. The Constitution. The Federalist Papers. Checks. Balances. Separation of powers. I mean, spend a day in a tricorn and you get things done.

Ever seen someone doom scroll-ing social media — in a tricorn? Exactly.

In a tricorn, I accomplished more in one morning than I had all week. Maybe in a month. By noon, lawn was mowed, garden was weeded, edges trimmed, and I wrote a quiet rebuttal to the Federalist Papers. Then I needed a sandwich.

We think of the Founding Fathers as philosophers, statesmen and visionaries. And maybe they were. Our Founding Fathers figured out exactly how much brim the male human needs to excel. Three.

Until Napoleon came along with the tricorn 2.0. He called it — the bicorn.

GREENACRES

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