



These are some of the items travelers on the frontier trails were often forced to abandon to lighten the load in their wagons.

New Exhibit at NFTM

"Trail Trash," is a new permanent exhibit at the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), 318 W. Pacific, that tells the story of trash and treasure left behind by travelers on the Oregon and California Trails.

"The display illustrates the sacrifices people made to achieve their ultimate goal of going West," NFTM Education Coordinator Richard Edwards said. "A large carved mahogany grandfather clock is just one example of a treasured possession that was discarded."

The NFTM is also presenting four special events during the month of April.

"Clash of Cultures: Native Americans, Anglo-Americans and Mexicans on the Santa Fe Trail" is the first and is scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 2. This 90-minute program, designed for children ages 8-12, investigates those who traveled west, the ideas they took along and the places they visited on the way to Santa Fe. A visit to the Bingham-Waggoner Es-

See Trail Trash, Page 3

HHW Collection Set for April 2

The City's annual free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Mobile Collection is the perfect opportunity for residents to rid their homes of hazardous waste products. This year's event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2 at the large parking lot at the corner of Liberty and Kansas Streets, one block south of the Independence Square.

Sponsored by the Water Pollution Control (WPC) Department, the event is not part of the City's Drop-Off Depot Program. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, is required. This collection is free to residents.

Your home contains a vast array of household products labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive that are hazardous products. They are used on a daily basis for cleaning, painting, beautifying and disinfecting the house, yard and garage. While the chemical-based household products from a single home may seem insignificant; when millions of homes use similar products, the combined effect becomes a major problem when they are handled, stored and disposed of improperly.

Dick Champion, Water Pollution Control (WPC) director, said the City sponsors the HHW collection to mitigate the adverse impact of improper disposal.

"The health and safety of people and animals, as well as the health of our community and the environment is endangered when hazardous waste is discarded in household garbage, sinks or storm drains," Champion said.

"Clean out the garage, cabinets, and basement," Champion urged. "Check with neighbors and combine your efforts to properly dispose of unwanted house-

hold hazardous wastes."

Champion said a special target of this year's collection is mercury, a toxic substance that poses a threat to human health and the environment. Residents bringing mercury thermometers to the collection will receive a free digital thermometer.



There is a limit of one thermometer per household. Mercury vapors, which can be released if your thermometer breaks, are harmful.

Mercury exposure at high levels can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages. Children under the age of 13 and unborn babies are most sensitive to mercury poisoning because their nervous systems are still developing. Mercury exposure can make a child less able to think and learn.

Mercury is also harmful to the water environment. Mercury vapors released in the air eventually settle into water or onto land where they can later be washed into water. Mercury in streams and lakes builds up in fish. Consumption of mercury-contaminated fish and shellfish is the main source of mercury exposure for humans.

"To reduce the risk of mercury exposure in your home and help protect the environment, avoid purchasing products containing mercury and safely dispose of mercury thermometers by bringing them to the collection," Champion said.

Other products which will be accepted
See HHW Collection, Page 3

External Defibrillators Given to Palmer Center

The City's Palmer Center is one of 66 nonprofit organizations selected across the country to receive an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as a gift from Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., and Cardiac Science, Inc.

The AED, valued at \$2,495, was delivered in January to the Palmer Center, 218-A N. Pleasant St.

Vicki Hon, Palmer Center site supervisor and program coordinator, said she is grateful the Center received the AED.

"Our participants tend to have more health problems due to their age, so it's essential that the staff working with them is prepared for situations that may be

caused by their health problems. We want our participants to feel like they are in good hands when they visit the Palmer Center."

Earlier this year, Harrah's and Cardiac Science, a manufacturer of automated public access defibrillators and provider of comprehensive AED/CPR training services, sought online applications from interested nonprofits. More than 600 applications from around the world were submitted. Those selected demonstrated a strong need for the devices and primarily serve senior citizens in communities where Harrah's operates.

"We're proud to work with another

company that shares Harrah's commitment to community endeavors," said Gary Loveman, president and chief executive officer of Harrah's. "Cardiac Science's offer to provide AEDs to nonprofit organizations is greatly appreciated. All of us at Harrah's commend Cardiac Science's help and are pleased that we are together able to have a direct impact in our communities."

"Harrah's has been on the forefront of deploying AEDs in public places," said Raymond W. Cohen, chairman and chief executive officer of Cardiac Science. "Due in part to Harrah's success, many organizations of a diverse nature have recognized the benefits AEDs can provide in protecting employees and customers against sudden cardiac arrest. We are very proud to be working with Harrah's in this worthwhile effort and we believe that the result of this work, without question, will be saved lives."

Independence Tsunami Relief Fund

People in South Asia need your help to recover, rebuild

Residential houses are still submerged more than a month after the December 26 tsunami in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar, India. About 1,900 people were killed in the archipelago and more than 5,500 are still missing. As many as 55,000 people from the area are in relief camps.

Like so many people around the world, we at the City of Independence have followed the headlines. Independence is a generous and caring community, with residents who truly care about those less fortunate. That desire to help others in need is a bond that Independence shares with its Japanese Sister City Higashimurayama. The Sister Cities, in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Truman Heartland Community Foundation have created the Independence Tsunami Relief fund.

\$100,000 Goal

The Independence Tsunami Relief Fund will target infrastructure improvements in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located off the coast of India. Over the next six months, it is our hope to receive at least \$100,000 in donations.

These contributions, through the help of the Truman Heartland Community Foundation will be tax deductible. In turn the funds will go exclusively to the Salvation Army for specific rebuilding efforts.

Residents and businesses in Independence and Higashimurayama will take pride in knowing where and how their contributions will be utilized. These Sister Cities will indeed be able to help a "brother" in need.

Send Your Donation Today

Your gift today will help rebuild long-term infrastructure needs in the Andaman and Nicobar Island region. Your donation will help this project become a reality. Donations, in the form of a check or money order, can be sent directly to the:

Independence Tsunami Relief Fund
C/O The Truman Heartland Community Foundation
300 N. Osage, Independence, MO 64050



City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Second Saturday Of Each Month

March - November!

875 Vista Drive
325-7623

Truman Road
 East of M-291,
 One Mile East
 On Vista Drive
 Next to Animal Shelter!



- Trash:** Cars, \$10;
 Vehicles Larger Than Car, \$15;
 Trailers 8 Feet or Longer, \$25
- Brush:** Limbs, Firewood, Bushes,
 Stumps. No Leaves or Grass: \$10
 per load
- Major Appliances:** \$15 Each
- Batteries & Lawnmowers:**
 Free
- Tires:** Car, \$1; Mounted Car, \$3;
 Truck, \$4; Mounted Truck, \$10;
 Farm/Tractor, \$15

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.

'Trail Trash'

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tate, 313 W. Pacific, includes a view of the swales made by covered wagons as they left Independence. The cost is \$5 per person.

"Ole Santa Fe!" will be performed at 10 a.m. Saturdays April 9, 16, 23 and 30. This original puppet show, co-sponsored by the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., shares the experiences of trail travel as told by puppet traders and animals. Admission is \$6 per person.

Explore the wagon swales left by caravans bound for Santa Fe in the 1830s by lantern light in an evening excursion. A guided tour group leaves the NFTM at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28 for a short walk across the street to the Bingham-Wagoner Estate. The tour is \$5 per person.

Alexander Major was a key local figure in the development of the Santa Fe Trail. Listen to teacher and living history interpreter Mark Armato in his first-person interpretation of Major and his life in "Headin' to Santa Fe" on Saturday, April 30. The \$6 program begins at 2 p.m.

Admission to all events includes NFTM admission. Reservations are requested for each program. For more information or to make reservations, go to www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org or call 325-7575.

Security Reminder From Utilities Customer Service

Customers using Utilities eBill, 325-SERV (7378), or Utilities Online to access billing information are reminded that after logging onto one of these services the first time, the PIN number will no longer appear on their bill. This is a security feature built into the City of Independence Utilities billing system.

The access code will continue to appear on the bill, just under the customer's mailing address on the top left of the utilities bill. Customers are encouraged to change their PIN the first time they log onto the online or 325-SERV system, and replace the computer-generated PIN with a number that is familiar to them.

Customers who forget their PIN will need to call Utilities Customer Service at 325-7930 during regular business hours to have a new PIN assigned.

Historic Preservation Web Page Updated

The City of Independence now offers Historic Preservation information online. The new Historic Preservation pages provide information concerning historically designated properties and local resources. The new information is intended to guide residents through the local preservation review process, allow the download of forms, and answer frequently asked questions. It will also tell those interested in preservation how to identify historic architectural styles and give information about current news and preservation-related events. There are guides for area walking tours, related preservation links, and contact information for both City staff and the Heritage Commission. Current and previous agendas and minutes for recent Heritage Commission meetings can also be accessed.

The pages are located at: <http://www.independencemo.org/>. Click on "Departments" on the menu to the left then choose "Historic Preservation" located below the listing for Community Development at the center of the page.

For more information regarding local preservation efforts or to list a preservation-related event, contact Wendy Shay, Historic Preservation manager, at 325-7419 or via e-mail at: wshay@indepmo.org.

HHW Collection

at the HHW collection are: any batteries (auto, household, hearing aid, etc.); paint and paint products (aerosol cans, varnish, stripper, thinner, turpentine, cans, etc.); fluorescent light bulbs; garden and yard products (herbicides, pesticides, sprays, rat poison, and weed killers); all automotive fluids (antifreeze, used motor oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, gasoline); household cleaners (lye, drain, toilet and tub cleaners, oven cleaners); kerosene; unused and/or outdated medicines, etc. If you are uncertain if a particular waste will be accepted, call WPC at 325-7711.

The Police Department will provide a certified explosive ordnance officer to collect and dispose of unwanted ammunition, explosives, firearms, fireworks, etc. Contact the Police Department at 325-7341 with questions about this type of disposal.

No appliances, trash, yard waste, medical waste, tires, asbestos, radioactive waste, pressurized gas cylinders or commercial waste will be accepted.

A separate lane for people bringing only a few items or mercury thermom-

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eters to the collection is planned.

Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle.

To transport to the site, make sure container lids are on tight. Bring items in original containers if possible. Don't mix different or unknown substances. If containers are leaking, wrap in plastic and pack in larger containers or boxes with absorbent material, such as cat litter. Use sturdy tubs or boxes to pack items and surround them with newspaper. Keep chemicals away from children and pets. While transporting, use the car trunk, rear of the station wagon or truck bed.

During the year, the HHW Facility in Kansas City is open and free to Independence residents. Days of operation are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Calls for appointments to 784-2080 can be made any day except Sunday and Monday. No commercial waste is accepted.

For more information about the City's HHW Program or the mobile collection, visit the WPC website at www.independencemo.org/wpc or call 325-7711.



I Share

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE
254-4100**

Before You Dig Call!

**1-800-DIG-RITE
1-800-344-7483**

IPL Offers Tree Trimming Tips

Independence Power & Light (IPL) offers some simple tips to help property owners avoid problems with trees coming in contact with power lines, the most common cause of power outages

·Before planting a new tree, be sure to select the right tree for the right place.

·Check with IPL for more information about the required clearance from power lines for different varieties of trees.

·Regularly check your property for potential problems from tree limbs near power lines. When in doubt, call IPL's tree trimming section at 325-7557.

·Keep tree limbs near service lines trimmed properly. IPL will trim trees near main distribution lines. Always use extreme caution near power lines!

·Before trimming trees near service lines, call IPL at 325-7550 and schedule the power to that line to be temporarily shut down. The line will be temporarily placed on the ground while tree trimming

work is being done.

·In cases where it is necessary for IPL to remove a homeowner's tree, IPL will provide a replacement tree through the utility's Tree Replacement Program.

For more information about selecting, planting and caring for new trees, or for information about tree trimming, call 325-7557 or visit our web site at www.independencemo.org/pl.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	
Ron Stewart	325-7026
City Council Office	
325-7021	
Councilmembers	
Don Reimal	District 1
Will Swoffer	District 2
Renee Paluka-White	District 3
Jim Page	District 4
Jim Schultz	At Large
Jason White	At Large
City Manager	
Robert Heacock	325-7170



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Hot Line Directory

Barking Dogs	325-7213
Code Compliance	325-7193
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Trash	325-7623
Drugs	325-6272
Potholes	325-7624
Street Lights	325-7535
Weapons	325-7233
West Nile Virus	325-7297

'No Problem' Hospitality Training

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday

April 13 or June 15

Community of Christ Temple

201 S. River

Learn about Independence, visit selected sites and attractions and practice making visitors feel welcome. \$25 fee includes lunch on the Square. Sign up at least one week before training. To reserve your spot call Tourism, 325-7112.

Coalition for Child Safety

An Independence Community Partnership

We believe the children of the Independence community are the most precious resource and that they deserve our nurturing, love, respect and protection. Yet, too many children are exposed to violence in their daily lives. During the month of April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, I pledge to act against the violence by speaking out and doing what I can to protect and respect the children in my home, neighborhood and community.

I can do this in many ways:

- By protecting the health and safety of children in my care.
- By becoming the best parent I can be.
- By advocating for the children who live around me.
- By helping others who are struggling to care for their children.
- By insisting elected officials in my community and state place a high priority on improving conditions for children and strengthening laws that protect and support them.



Signed _____

This blue ribbon represents the fight against child abuse. Please help protect our children! Do your part, contact the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 to report abuse.

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-392-3738



City Council

- 6 p.m. Mondays
- 10 a.m. Tuesdays
- 7 p.m. Wednesdays
- 2 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission

- 6:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- 10 a.m. Wednesdays
- 7 p.m. Thursdays

Inside Independence

- 7 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
- 10 a.m. Mondays