



Date: May 27, 2004
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BILLINGS – Pompeys Pillar National Monument will open for the season on Saturday, May 29.

The historic site is 25 miles east of Billings off Interstate 94. It will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from May 29 through Labor Day. Admission is \$3 per vehicle.

On his return trip, William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition carved his name and the date in the sandstone face of the Pillar. The inscription remains the only physical evidence of the expedition that is still visible on the actual route. Pompeys Pillar was a designated National Landmark prior to becoming a National Monument in January 2001.

The site offers a day use area, visitor contact station and gift shop. As in past years, Friday evening campfire programs will begin in June. The schedule will be available after June 4 at the site or by calling 406-875-2233.

According to Monument Manager Dick Kodeski, interest in the Pillar is increasing as a result of the ongoing Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. “We saw a 7% increase in visitation last year with 55,000 visitors, and I think we’ll see even more this year,” Kodeski said. “We’re also building a new interpretive center which should be completed in time for the Pompeys Pillar Bicentennial Signature Event in 2006.”

Pompeys Pillar is managed by the Bureau of Land Management with the assistance of the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, a group of citizen volunteers. “We’re grateful to Association members for their continued support,” stated Kodeski. “They provide invaluable assistance in the day-to-day operations at the monument.”

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