



Date: July 22, 2003

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### **Thomas Jefferson to Highlight Clark Days at Pompeys Pillar**

BILLINGS – Bill Barker, a Thomas Jefferson “character interpreter,” will highlight the annual Clark Days celebration at Pompeys Pillar National Monument this weekend.

Activities begin Saturday evening at 7 p.m. and include a natural history walk, dugout canoe building, navigation demonstration, and stories around the campfire with Sgt. Pryor.

Saturday is also the only day of the year when overnight camping is allowed at the Pillar. BLM will have park rangers on duty at the visitor center all night Saturday to assist campers.

On Sunday, a 6 a.m. bird walk along the Yellowstone will be followed by a pancake breakfast at 7. Then from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., visitors can take in a number of demonstrations that include firearms of the Lewis and Clark era, Native American beadwork, food and cooking of the Lewis and Clark era, Mesolithic technology, and how dugout canoes were made.

A buffalo burger lunch will be available from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. A canoe flotilla will arrive at the Pillar at 1 p.m., and Crow Indian dancers will perform from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Bill Barker will portray President Thomas Jefferson from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Barker has been interested in Thomas Jefferson since his youth. He is a professional actor, director and producer, and has performed as Jefferson in many different venues over the years.

Admission fees are waived for the commemoration that is sponsored jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association. Nominal charges are made for food and refreshments.

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The Clark Days celebration is in addition to the regular Friday night programs held at the Pillar during the summer. The updated schedule for the rest of the season includes *Post Lewis & Clark Fur Trappers & Accoutrements*, presented by Ron Garritson on July 25; *Bear Grease, Elk Rope & Moccasins for Horses*, presented by Carol Ward on August 8; *Sergeant Pryor*, presented by Don Woerner; *Medicine of the Crops*, presented by Caity Czaja on August 15; *Clark on the Yellowstone & Dugout Canoes*, presented by Walt Marten on August 22; and *Native Dance and Storytelling*, presented by Jane Garritson on August 29. All programs are about 30 minutes long.

Pompeys Pillar is 30 miles east of Billings off Interstate 94 at Exit 23. For more information, call Pompeys Pillar Visitor Center at 406-875-2233, or visit [www.pompeyspillar.org](http://www.pompeyspillar.org).

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