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Lewis and Clark web site adds July updates

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NEWS RELEASE

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LEWIS AND CLARK WEB SITE ADDS JULY UPDATES

MISSOULA —

Montana will celebrate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's epic journey during 2003-06, and one of the best places to learn more about the historic travelers is the "Discovering Lewis and Clark" Web site, located online at <http://www.lewis-clark.org>.

Recent updates can be accessed by clicking on "New in July, 2002." New this month is a fascinating American Indian perspective titled "Clark's Nez Perce Son: A Tsoopnitpalu Legend," related by Otis Halfmoon of the Nez Perce Tribe.

Halfmoon describes his tribe's first impressions of the Corps of Discovery: "The Nez Perce people, when they saw them, they weren't quite sure what these creatures were. They'd heard of white people, but they had never seen one."

He goes on to relate how William Clark and York, Clark's black slave, allegedly fathered children among the Nez Perce. The story follows the life of Clark's son among the Nez Perce until his eventual death as a prisoner of war in Oklahoma around 1880.

Joe Mussulman, a former University of Montana professor, leads a team that designs "Discovering Lewis and Clark," which now includes more than 1,200 pages and gets 27,000 hits a day. Mussulman said the site has been described by historians as the best source of Lewis and Clark information on the Internet. Designers periodically add an interpretive

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episode that delves into some aspect of the expedition.

The Web site went online in 1997 and is funded by a nonprofit corporation Mussulman created called VIAs. Look for new episodes at the site for several years to come. Fiscal management of the site is provided by the Bookstore at UM.

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