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## NEWS RELEASE

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*Corps of Discovery in Our Camp: Tradition of Hospitality and Trade* comes to the Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, Pendleton, Oregon

The Indian role in the famed Lewis & Clark expedition, now marking its 200th anniversary, is a key story in the current bicentennial commemoration of the Expedition. That will be especially evident when *Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future*, sets up its big-top style tents at the Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute near Pendleton, April 29-May 7, 2006.

During the Corps II nine-day appearance, the Corps II exhibits and performance stage, as well as Tamástslíkt's permanent exhibits and its outside living culture village, will be open to the public with free admission. Hours are 9-5 daily.

The nine days of events open Friday, April 28 with a lively concert by Odyssey West from 5:30 - 7 p.m. As with all events during the Corp II stay, it will be free and open to the public.

Tamástslíkt will enhance the visit by providing other displays—a presentation of live raptor birds native to our region as well as a display of butterflies.

In Tamástslíkt's living culture village visitors can learn the stick game, an ancient gambling pastime, observe the techniques of flintknapping and tule mat construction and taste freshly cooked beaver's tail while experiencing the village's forms of traditional Tribal lodges going back over 1,000 years.

A myriad of presentations, music and historical interpretations will take place during nine days. See the accompanying story and schedule for details.

While American Indians have no wish to celebrate the Lewis and Clark Expedition—it ushered in a period of upheaval and cultural destruction for Western Tribes, even to the point of extinction for some—most of the Tribal governments who represent the descendents of the Tribes encountered by the Expedition have chosen to join in the commemoration. They recognize it as an opportunity to tell their own history of the Expedition and the ensuing events.

Corps II, the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial exhibit on wheels produced by the National Park Service, gives visitors an introduction to the Lewis & Clark expedition story. It began its tour in January 2003 at Monticello,

the home of Thomas Jefferson, who sent the original expedition. Several Tamástslíkt staff, including director Bobbie Conner, participated in that snowy launch of the four-year commemoration. Since then the Corps II exhibit has set up in communities on approximately the dates the expedition passed through their regions 200 years ago.

The exhibit relates to the natural history, cultural resources and people of our nation before, during and after the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The 200-seat Tent of Many Voices hosts live demonstrations, lectures, cultural presentations and audio-visual showings (see the accompanying schedule) provided in partnership with the Tribes here, as well as other local Lewis & Clark bicentennial organizations and state agencies.

"Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery arrived in this region 200 years ago," said Bobbie Conner, director of Tamástslíkt. "Our people helped them with food, directions, information and transportation." Conner is the vice-president of the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and will be a presenter in the Tent of Many Voices while it's here. She has joined the Corps II exhibit at several of its stops during the past two years to speak on the Indian role in the expedition and its impact on the many tribes it encountered.

Betty Boyko, Assistant Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, said Lewis and Clark noted rivers teeming with fish and thousands of people living in the area of the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. "But what happened to the tribes after Lewis and Clark was unkind at best," she said. "That's a large part of the story we are going to look at when Corps II is at Tamástslíkt."

Conner said the captains saw thousands of pounds of drying fish, healthy horses, handsome and respected leadership, heard multiple native languages, "and of our people they said, 'they are the most hospitable, honest and sincere people that have met with in our voyage.'"

But over the years those words of praise did not insulate the Tribes. "President Jefferson and the founding fathers charted the course, the Lewis and Clark expedition mapped and branded the route, and treaty commissioners imposed their national rights of discovery on Indians who had few choices and none favorable," Connor added.

In addition to a walk-through exhibit, Corps of Discovery II has a 25-foot keelboat replica, an explorer camp complete with a 25-foot dugout canoe and a performance stage.

Corps II is largely staffed by the National Park Service but involves more than two dozen federal agencies, 41 Indian nations, 18 Lewis and Clark Trail State Commissions, dozens of state and local agencies, non-profit groups and thousands of individual volunteers. More than 300,000 people have visited Corps II in over 70 cities near and along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The Tent of Many Voices schedule and more Corps II information is available online at [www.lewisandclarkgnet.com](http://www.lewisandclarkgnet.com) and [www.nps.gov/lecl](http://www.nps.gov/lecl).

For further information about the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial please visit [www.lewisandclark200.org](http://www.lewisandclark200.org) or [www.lewisandclark200.gov](http://www.lewisandclark200.gov) or [www.lcbo.net](http://www.lcbo.net).

*Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Tamástslíkt is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.*

## Tent of Many Voices Speaks in Many Tongues

Entertainers, scientists, historians, park rangers and more will bring one of America's premier historical stories to life for nine days beginning April 29.

Corps of Discovery II, the National Park Service exhibit touring the country as part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial commemoration, will again appear at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute from April 29 – May 7, including dozens of live appearances on the stage of the Tent of Many Voices.

At each of its hundreds of appearances over the past three years, the Corps II exhibit has taken on a new personality, provided by the unique venue where it is staged. While appearing at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, the Tribal museum and interpretive center for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, the Park Service's exhibit will have a decidedly Native feel.

In many ways the Lewis and Clark Expedition marked the beginning of the end for hundreds of Native Tribes' cultures, as they had been practiced for thousands of years. So while the exhibit at Tamástslíkt will include a lot of fun, it will also include presentations on the impact of the expedition on Tribal life in the Columbia Plateau region.

Among the presentations in the Tent of Many Voices will be such scientific-oriented programs as "Plants and Fish of the Umatilla River", the "Story of the Sage Grouse" and the "Environmental Legacy of the Columbia Plateau". Everyone will enjoy learning the traditional stick game, a fun form of Native gambling that's been practiced for many centuries and was often observed and noted by Lewis and Clark.

Jack Gladstone, a Blackfeet musician most often found with a guitar in his hands, will tell the story of the Blackfeet encounter, the only encounter between the Expedition and Native Americans to result in violence and death. Other presentations connected to the Native story include a symposium on the Longterm Impact of the Expedition on Tribes in this Region, a presentation on the Health Status of American Indians, another on the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act and Songs of the Umatilla and the story of the local Tribes' Salmon Culture.

Historical presentations include First Do No Harm (Medicine of the Expedition), the story of Meriwether Lewis told in Meriwether's words by an actor portraying the expedition leaders, The Fates of Corps Members After 1806, and a play, The End of the World, about Lewis' death by suicide a few years after the expedition.

Hasan Davis, who has acquired national fame portraying the Black slave, York, will portray York at Tamástslíkt, even as he has at the White House. Daniel Slosberg, renowned for his portrayal of the expedition's most famous fiddler, Pierre Cruzatte, will touch his bow to the fiddle strings while also telling Cruzatte's story in a musical presentation, and Ritchie Doyle, famed interpreter of William Clark, will portray the expedition's co-captain, complete with red hair.

For a complete list of the events and more details, please see the accompanying schedule or visit [www.tamastslíkt.org](http://www.tamastslíkt.org).