

Portland **Entertainment** Observer

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Siletz Tribe Holds its 4th Annual Pow Wow Competition

LINCOLN CITY - The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon will hold their 4th Annual Spring Competition Pow Wow at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln

City, March 24 & 25. Over the past four years it has become evident that this is one of the most exciting Native events occurring each spring in the northwest. Historically Pow Wows have been a time to gather for trade, competition, socializing and just plain fun. Native American arts and crafts vendors, competition dancing, and a blend of

Northwest Native American culture together create a festive atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. For the first-time pow wow attendee, an unforgettable experience awaits. It's fun, friendly, educational, and a terrific family event. The mesmerizing effect of the beat of the drums permeating the room and the excitement surrounding the dance competi-

tion, are enhanced by the splendor found in regalia worn by the participants. The colors incorporated into the handmade garments give new meaning to a "Kodak moment." Dance competitions will include Adults, Teens, Youth, and Golden Age in Traditional, Grasses, Jingle and Fancy Dance categories. The Pow Wow will be held at

Chinook Winds Casino & Convention Center which is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon. The facility stand on land that was inhabited by ancestors of the Siletz Tribe since the time of beginning, later to become reservation and allotment land, which is today once again part of the Siletz Reservation.

CHRIS ROCK

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Tickets: \$20.00 per person

Empire of the Sultans

Ottoman Art from the Khalil Collection at the Portland Art Museum

Empire of the Sultans: Ottoman Art from the Khalili Collection, a spectacular exhibition highlighting the rich artistic heritage of one of the most impressive world powers in the history of Europe and the Middle East, opens this month and runs until April at the Portland Art Museum. Over 2000 objects ranging from Holy K'urans, arms, and armor to rich textiles, treasury objects, and tilt manuscripts, this exhibition embraces every aspect of Ottoman art and a dynasty which spanned more than six centuries.

The works are drawn from the Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art, one of the largest collections of its kind. Empire of the Sultans marks the first time this important collection has been seen in the United States and also presents a number of objects that have never before been displayed publicly.

Among the treasures on view will be calligraphic medallions in gilded wood that decorated mosques, brilliantly decorated armor and jewel-encrusted weapons used in battle by Suleyman the

Magnificent, exquisite Persian carpets, and painstakingly illustrated albums and books.

The exhibition also features numerous copies of the Holy Kur'an which, for Muslims, is the literal Word of God as received by the Prophet Muhammad. The memorization of the Kur'an, and the copying and embellishment of its text, are among the highest expressions of piety and considered some of the most beautiful works of Ottoman medallions, scrolling arabesques, and floral motifs in bright colors.

The Ottomans were warriors of Islam and expanded their empire into both Christian Europe and Shi'ite Iran. Their army on campaign - virtually a palace on the move - made a brilliant and awesome sight. On view in Empire of the Sultans are silk banners enriched with metallic threads, steel war masks with engraved decoration, as well as armor and "turban" helmets; jewel-encrusted horse armor; beautiful forged daggers and sheaths; and pistols and flintlock rifles inlaid with bone, ivory, gems, and gold. As the Ottoman army advanced, able administrators were recruited to document and enforce the sultan's conquests, and on view are decorated endowment deeds, illustrated accounts of the sultan's reigns and genealogy and imperial decrees.

Second only to their religious architecture, the Ottomans are perhaps best known for their decorative arts, particularly ceramics and carpets. Early examples of poetry produced in Iznik demonstrate the sultan's demand for tableware to augment the Palace holdings or early Ming Yuan porcelain, and thus the exhibition contains flasks, ewers, and dishes whose surfaces mimic those of Chinese wares. An array of domestic objects in silver, brass, and glass, including jugs, incense burners, coffee-pots, a ladle, and a scent-dropper employ shapes and designs influenced by artistic trends from across the empire and parts of Europe. Of all the decorative arts in the exhibition, however, none is more essentially Ottoman than the "star Usak" carpet created in the late 15th or early 16th century, a brilliantly colored example of the traditional, eight-pointed, star medallion. Book bindings and examples of decoupage (cut-out work) reached the height of virtuosity during the rule of Suleyman the Magnificent and the exhibition includes important examples of these. The Portland Art Museum is located at 1219 SW. Park Avenue in downtown Portland. For more information on this and other Museum exhibitions, please call 503/226-2811 or visit the Museum's web site at www.portlandartmuseum.org.

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