

Library to honor Choctaw author, storyteller

TULSA – Tim Tingle (Choctaw) will receive the Tulsa Library Trust’s “Festival of Words Writers Award” March 4, 2017, 10:30 a.m., at Hardesty Regional Library’s Connor’s Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St. His award presentation will be followed by a book signing and a day of educational American Indian family events from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The award, presented every other year, consists of a \$5,000 honorarium and an engraved crystal. Previous winners include: 2001, Joy Harjo (Muscogee Creek); 2003, Vine DeLoria Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux); 2005, Leslie Marmon-Silko (Laguna Pueblo) 2007, Carter Revard (Osage); 2011, LeAnne Howe, (Choctaw); 2013, Sterlin Harjo, (Seminole/Muscogee Creek); and 2015, Joseph Bruchac, (Abenaki).

Tingle is a storyteller and award-winning author of books for children, teens and adults. He earned his master’s degree in English Literature at the University of Oklahoma with a focus on American Indian studies. Since the early 1990s, Tingle has spent hundreds of hours interviewing Choctaw tribal elders throughout the South in an effort to create a personal and historical narrative.

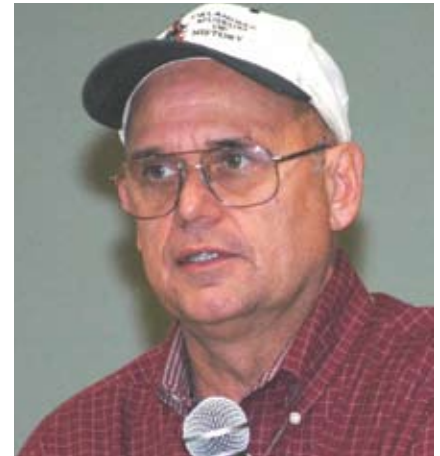
In 2005, he was selected as the featured author for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, for his book, *Walking the Choctaw Road*. This book features 12 stories with a mix of historical accounts, traditional lore and tales from everyday life. Tingle collected stories through interviews with Choctaw tribal elders. Told in chronological order, the stories range from the days when most Choctaws were living in Mississippi to the Trail of Tears, including difficulties in modern times.

“My dad and his brothers and sisters told story after story of our family surviving the Trail of Tears,” recalled Tingle. “John Carnes, my great, great grandfather was 10 years old when his town was burned to the ground and the journey began. It seemed every weekend we children were treated to various versions of John’s story.”

His first children’s book, *Crossing Bok Chitto*, earned more than 20 state and national awards, including Best Children’s Book from the American Library Association. It also was named an Editor’s Choice by the *New York Times Books Review*.

Tingle was a featured author and speaker at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., based on the critical acclaim for *How I Became a Ghost*, which won the 2014 American Indian Library Association Youth Literature Award. *How I Became A Ghost* is the first in a planned trilogy told through the perspective of a young Choctaw boy, Isaac. He recounts his tribe’s removal from the only land its people have ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost – one with the ability to help those he left behind. Isaac leads a remarkable group of Choctaw comrades; a tough-minded teenage girl, a shape-shifting panther boy, a lovable 5-year-old ghost who only wants her mom and dad to be happy, and Isaac’s talking dog, Jumper.

The next book in the series, *When a Ghost Talks, Listen*, is scheduled to be released in 2017. Focusing on the most esteemed Choctaw leader of all time, United States Army General and Choctaw Chief Pushmataha, the reader is transported to Washington, D.C., 1824, to explore the circumstances surrounding



Tim Tingle

Pushmataha’s mysterious death.

His latest novel, *House of Purple Cedar*, won the 2016 American Indian Youth Literature Award. Set in the 1890s in Spiro, Oklahoma, it describes challenges facing Choctaws and incoming white settlers.

Every Labor Day, Tingle performs a Choctaw story before the Chief’s State of the Nation Address, a gathering that attracts more than 90,000 tribal members and friends. In June of 2011, Tingle spoke at the Library of Congress and presented his first performance at the Kennedy Center, delivering a keynote address at the National Education Association’s Annual Assembly.

Sponsors for the American Indian Festival of Words include the Tulsa Library Trust, Tulsa City-County Library’s American Indian Resource Center, The Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Dr. Frank and Mary Shaw, and Friends of the Helmerich Library.

For more information on library programming, call the AskUs Hotline, 918-549-7323, or visit the library’s website, www.tulsalibrary.org.

AARP Oklahoma opens Indian Elder Honors nominations

AARP Oklahoma is accepting nominations for its ninth annual Indian Elder Honors to celebrate 50 Native American elders who have positively impacted their communities, families, tribes and nations.

Since its inception in 2009, AARP Oklahoma has recognized 400 elders from all 39 federally recognized tribes and nations in Oklahoma.

“The AARP Indian Elder Honors recognizes the extraordinary contribution of Indian elders, many of whom have never been recognized before,” AARP Oklahoma Volunteer State President Joe Ann Vermillion said.

The 2016 honorees included teachers, veterans, nurses, artists, tribal leaders, language and culture preservationists and even a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

“This event celebrates a lifetime of service from these distinguished elders. The common thread between the honorees, regardless of the contributions, is the commitment to community and service,” AARP State Director Sean Voskuhl said.

This year’s Indian Elder Honors will be held Oct 3 in Oklahoma City.

Nomination applications are online at www.aarp.org/NDNElders. Nominations may be emailed to msourjohn@aarp.org or mailed to AARP Oklahoma, 126 N. Bryant, Edmond, OK, 73034.

Nominees must be enrolled citizens of federally recognized Oklahoma tribes or nations, at least 50 years old and alive. Nominees do not have to be AARP members.

For more information, call Mashell Sourjohn at 405-715-4474 or email msourjohn@aarp.org. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1.

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American Indian FESTIVAL of WORDS

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Saturday, March 4
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

featuring:

Festival of Words Writers Award Honoring Tim Tingle



10:30-11:30 a.m. • Tim Tingle (Choctaw) is a storyteller and award-winning author of books for children, teens and adults. His works include *Walking the Choctaw Road*, *How I Became a Ghost*, *Crossing Bok Chitto*, *House of Purple Cedar*, and his latest release, *Danny Blackgoat: Dangerous Passage*. A book signing will follow.

Genealogy Research

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Discover the many American Indian genealogical resources available at the library.

Native Culture Maker Spaces

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Take home the projects you make! Projects include Cherokee pottery by Crystal Hanna, finger weaving by Michel Lauder milk, Cherokee basket weaving by Choogie Kingfisher, sculptures with Lisan and Dana Tiger, and pony bead key chains by Stella Foster.

Children’s Crafts

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Zoo 2 U: Oklahoma Wild

11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. • This family presentation from the Tulsa Zoo will bring a better understanding of the natural world while encouraging a healthy appreciation of Oklahoma wildlife and conservation. Audience limited to 50 participants per session.

Third Annual Preserving Our Tribal Languages Forum

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission and the American Indian Resource Center will showcase the rich culture of native languages while focusing on native youth and children.

Traditional American Indian Dance Exhibition

1:30 p.m. • Presented by All Nations Indian Youth

Food Concession

National Champion Indian Tacos
by Monie Horsechief of Horsechief Catering

Sponsored by

The Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation
Dr. Frank and Mary Shaw
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American Indian Resource Center

