

BY JOHN FANCHER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

# American Indian Festival of Words

Each March Tulsa City-County Library celebrates the contributions of American Indians by inviting families to discover new traditions during a series of free family programs.

The month-long celebration begins with the “Circle of Honor” which recognizes a tribal elder for achievements and contributions that have enriched others’ lives.

Sam Proctor, Muscogee (Creek), will receive the honor March 5, 10:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library’s Connor’s Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Award-winning and internationally acclaimed artist Dana Tiger, Muscogee (Creek), painted a portrait of Sam Proctor and will have prints for sale after his ceremony.

Proctor was born south of Hanna in the Weogufkee community of Oklahoma, the heart of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and is a lifelong Oklahoman. He is a descendant of Opthleyahola, one of the great Creek leaders.

Proctor has dedicated his life’s mission to encouraging families to incorporate Muscogee (Creek) traditions in their daily routines. He believes that the language and traditions are vital to maintaining a way of life that promotes balance and harmony with family, friends and strangers.

His knowledge of traditional and sustainable agriculture was beneficial in the efforts to establish the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative in Okmulgee,



SAM PROCTOR.

Okla. in 2007. The purpose of the program is to help the Muscogee (Creek) people and their neighbors in the eight counties that make up the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to improve their health through agriculture, economic development and community involvement.

Proctor actively participates as the medicine man of Tallahassee (Wvkokaye) Ceremonial ground, located in rural Okfuskee County. Each summer he participates in the annual Green Corn ceremonies, which is a time of purification, renewal and moving forward. During the ceremony, the central sacred fire is extinguished and its ashes are added to a mound to show the relation-

ship between people and the land. A new fire is lit and its embers are shared with the surrounding hearths of the camps, to begin a new cycle.

Proctor joins in the “Circle of Honor” along with past recipients Charles Chibitty, Wilma Mankiller, Neal McCaleb, Billy Mills, Kirk Kickingbird and Ruthe Blalock Jones.

Many Tulsa City-County Library locations feature family programming throughout the month honoring the cultural achievements of different tribes in Oklahoma. Enjoy these free programs:

**Make and Take: Finger Weaving for Beginners**, March 12, 1-3 p.m., Glenpool Library, 730 E. 141st St. Taught by Michel

Laudermilk. All materials provided. Class size is limited. Call 918.549.7535 to register.

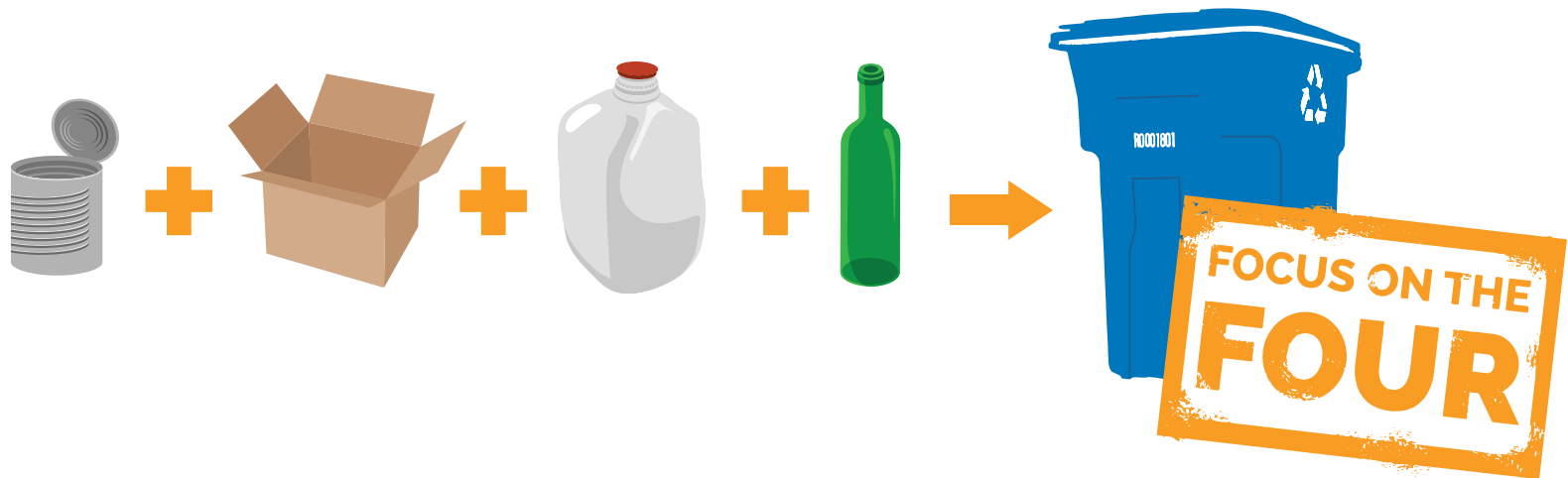
**Birds of Honor/Birds of Prey: The Unique and Vital Roles They Play!** March 15, 1:30-2 p.m. and 2:15-2:45 p.m., Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St. Enjoy the birds of the Iowa Tribe’s Grey Snow Eagle House (Bah Kho-Je Xia Chi). Don’t miss this opportunity to see these beautiful birds! Bring your camera.

**Make and Take: Cherokee Pottery**, March 16, 1-2 p.m., Judy Z. Kishner Library, 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. E., Sperry. Potter Crystal Hanna will lead a hands-on pottery workshop. Materials provided.

**Make and Take: Cherokee Flute Making**, March 21, 3-4 p.m., Collinsville Library, 1223 Main. Choogie Kingfisher teaches par-

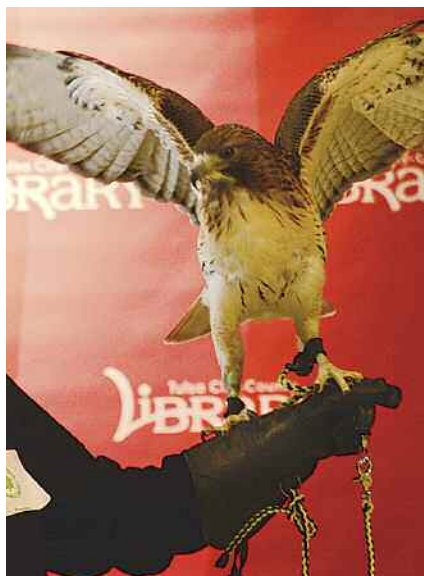


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- Corn Husk Dolls presented by Stella Foster
  - Finger Weaving presented by Michel Laudermilk
- Enjoy these programs as an opportunity to start a conversation with your children about different cultures and the similarities we all share. Continue that conversation at home by using library resources as a way to discover the world.



Participants how to make and use the Cherokee river-cane flute. All materials provided. Call 918.549.7528 to register.

**Native Culture Make and Take**, March 22, 6:30-8 p.m., Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St. All ages are invited to enjoy this Native Culture Make and Take program featuring the following projects:

- Pottery presented by Crystal Hanna

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 Tuesday, March 15 - 'Sea Turtle Frenzy'  
 Wednesday, March 16 - 'Preserved in Time'  
 Thursday, March 17 - 'Kelp Connection'  
 Friday, March 18 - 'Native Oklahoma Wildlife'

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