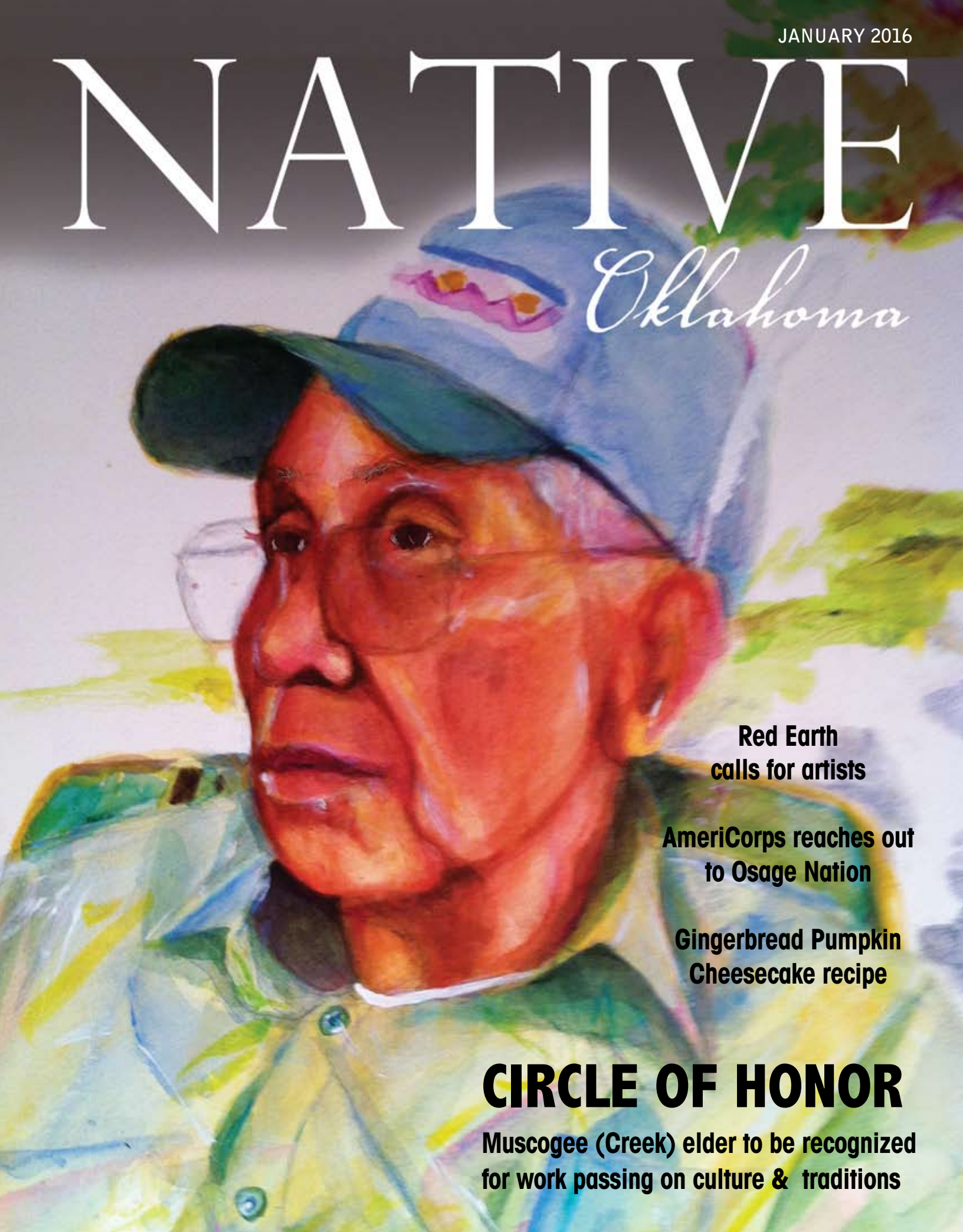


JANUARY 2016

NATIVE

Oklahoma



**Red Earth
calls for artists**

**AmeriCorps reaches out
to Osage Nation**

**Gingerbread Pumpkin
Cheesecake recipe**

CIRCLE OF HONOR

**Muscogee (Creek) elder to be recognized
for work passing on culture & traditions**



Sam Proctor

Muscogee (Creek) elder to be inducted into Tulsa City-County Library's Circle of Honor

Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center will induct Sam Proctor into the Circle of Honor during a special presentation March 5, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St.

By JOHN FANCHER

Proctor's award presentation begins the monthlong celebration honoring the achievements and accomplishments of Native Americans. 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. Programs will be held throughout TCCL locations during March. All library events are free and open to the public.

Proctor, Muscogee (Creek), 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 Opethleyahola, 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, 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 relationship 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, along with tribal citizens Tecumseh Jackson and Nancy Scott Fields, established a Muscogee (Creek) hymn singing class as an additional preservation effort.

“I have known Sam Proctor my entire life and have long been inspired by his efforts to preserve the heart of the Muscogee Creek culture and keep the traditions alive,” said Will Hill, American Indian Resource Center advisory board member. “Sam is a distinguished tribal elder and is regularly asked to share his insights in the preservation of tribal languages and culture. He is even considered a statesman after speaking in Washington D.C. on the preservation efforts of the Creek people.”

The Circle of Honor ceremony recognizes an American Indian for his or her achievements by acknowledging the inductee’s contributions that have enriched others’ lives and by celebrating the inductee’s action in the face of adversity, commitment to the preservation of American Indian culture and legacy for future generations.

Sponsored by the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Cherokee Builders Inc., American Indian Resource Center and the Tulsa Library Trust. The award consists of a \$5,000 honorarium and a medallion featuring the American Indian Resource Center’s turtle logo.

The Circle of Honor alternates annually with the American Indian Festival of Words Author Award. Past Circle of Honor recipients include Charles Chibitty, Wilma Mankiller, Neal McCaleb, Bill Mills, Kirke Kickingbird and Ruthe Blalock Jones.

The American Indian Resource Center, located at the Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St., provides educational and informational resources, activities and services honoring American Indian heritage, arts and achievements. The center also provides access to more than 4,000 books and media for adults and children by and about American Indians, including historical and rare materials, new releases, videos and music CDs.

For more information call 918-549-7323, or visit the library’s website, <http://tulsalibrary.org/airc>.

Red Earth Festival announces call for artists

OKLAHOMA CITY – Applications for new artists interested in participating in the 30th Red Earth Festival art market are currently being accepted for the event scheduled June 10-12, 2016 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Applications will be accepted through January 15, 2016.

A 2015 reader’s poll by USA TODAY 10Best named Oklahoma City’s Red Earth Festival a Top 10 winner for America’s Best Arts Festival.

Red Earth Festival art market categories include contemporary and traditional art forms including cultural items, jewelry, basketry, paintings, drawings, graphics, photography, beadwork, clothing, textiles, weaving, sculpture and pottery.

Applicants must be able to provide documents of proof of membership in a federally or state-recognized tribal entity or documents of proof of certification as Indian Artisans by an Indian tribe. Artists must submit three color images per category of artwork that will be sold in their booth. Applications can be downloaded from www.redearth.org, or obtained by calling (405) 427-5228. Booth space in the Red Earth art market is limited, and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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COVER ARTIST | DANA TIGER | MUSCOGEE CREEK / SEMINOLE / CHEROKEE

DANA TIGER is an award winning nationally acclaimed artist. She is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is of Seminole and Cherokee descent. Dana was just five-years-old when her father, legendary artist Jerome Tiger, passed away. She turned to his art as a way to know him, and that engagement, coupled with the tutelage of her uncle, renowned painter Johnny Tiger Jr., exposed Dana both to the richness of her Native American culture and to the bounty of her family's artistic tradition.

Best known for her watercolors and acrylic paintings depicting the strength and determination of Native American women, Dana's paintings now hang in galleries, universities and state buildings nationwide.

Her honors include being named Muscogee Creek Artist of the Year and First People's Fund Community Spirit Award winner. In recognition of her accomplishments as an artist as well as an activist and community leader, Dana was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

Dana and her husband, Donnie Blair, run the Tiger Art Gallery in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and have two children, Christie and Lisan, also gifted artists.

In 2002, Dana founded the non-profit Legacy Cultural Learning Community, dedicated to nurturing Native youth via the celebration and sharing of tribal languages and culture through the arts.

To view the Tiger family's art, please visit www.tigerartgallery.com.

– Tiger Gallery is located at 2110 E. Shawnee, Muskogee.



Dana Tiger and her painting representing the Ribbon Dance at Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground

'Medicine Man'
A portrait of Sam Proctor

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