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Published February 16, 2017

TULSA – Tim Tingle (Choctaw) will receive the Tulsa Library Trust’s “Festival of Words Writers Award” March 4, 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



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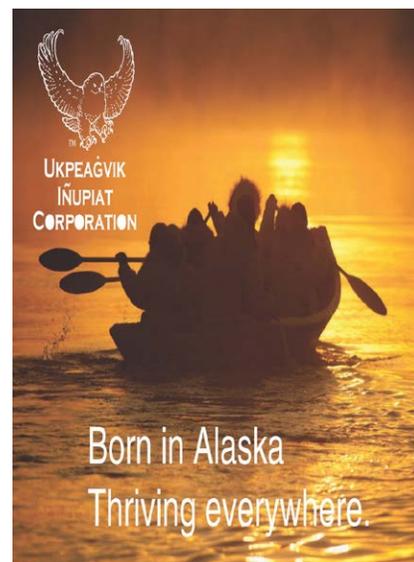


chronological order, the stories range from the days when most Choctaws were living in Mississippi to the Trail of Tears, including difficulties in modern times.

“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 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



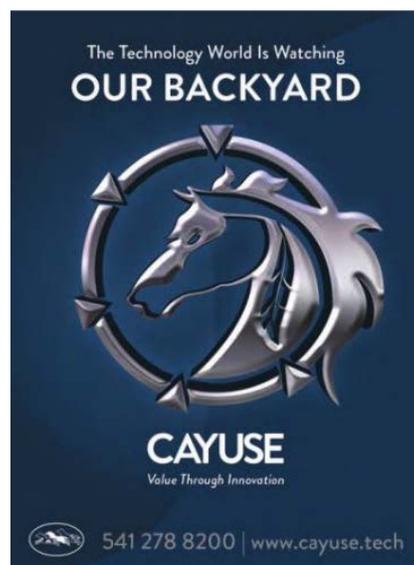
An advertisement for 1ST Tribal Lending. It features a colorful parrot logo in the top left corner and a circular logo with the letter "T" in the top right corner. The text reads "1ST TRIBAL LENDING" and "The Nation's most-experienced Indian 184 lending lender". Below this, the text says "Let Us Help Solve Your Tribal Housing Needs". A small photo of Joel Burnette, Manager, is shown on the left. The text continues: "1ST Tribal Lending, the nation's number one Section 184 lender, has the expertise and experience to address that need. 1ST Tribal Lending is the only nationwide lender solely dedicated to Indian Country housing. We provide Tribes, TDHIEs and Tribal Members with the financing to build or purchase new homes. Tribes and TDHIEs can finance up to 20 simultaneous new home builds or acquisitions and there is no pre-determined limit to the total number of homes a tribe can own. Some tribes have hundreds of Section 184 financed homes. Joel Burnette brings an unprecedented level of customer service, experience, and dedication to serving our Native American population." Below this, there is a box with the text: "ALSO, rates have dropped again to historically low levels. It is a great time to refinance your existing Section 184 loans." At the bottom, the text says "Call: 605.610.0106 or Email: joel.burnette@1tribal.com" and "CALL TODAY". There is also a logo for "184 LENDER" at the bottom right.

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.

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.



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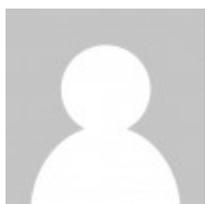
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