

Historian Jerry Taylor presents a 'History in Stitches' in local meeting

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor visited with the Mountain Movers and Shakers recently to talk local history.

Taylor is a native of the area and previously worked as an educator at Towns County Schools, teaching Georgia History along with several other subjects for more than 33 years.

He also served on the school board for two terms representing the Young Harris District, and he currently serves on the Historical Society Board.

During the Movers and Shakers' June 21 meeting, Taylor took everyone back to school with a presentation he called "History in Stitches."

In 2006, Taylor and other history teachers at Towns County Schools wanted to do something special for the county's sesquicentennial, or 150-year anniversary.

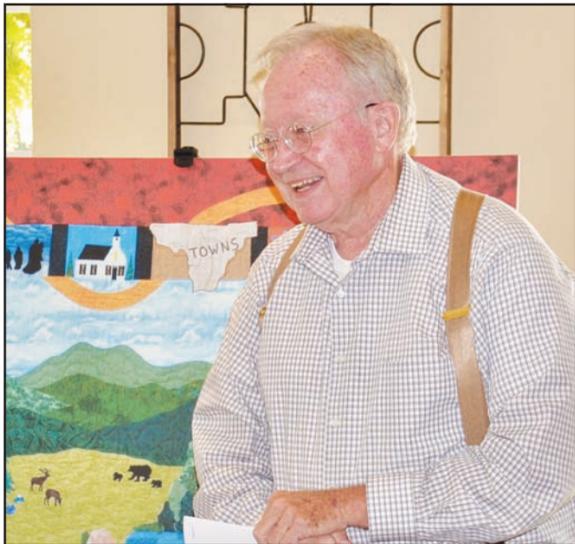
Together, they came up with the idea of making a quilt chronicling the county's history, and that quilt still hangs in the elementary school as a teaching tool today.

The quilt displays over 150 years of local history going as far back as the Native Americans, with a seven-pointed star representing the seven clans of the Cherokee Indians.

A through-line of the quilt is the "Unicoi Turnpike," which was built in about 1815, said Taylor, further stating that the Unicoi Turnpike connected Northern Georgia with parts of Tennessee and North Carolina for the Cherokee to travel.

"There is a remnant of the Unicoi Turnpike in the City Limits of Hiawassee, at a place otherwise known as Lloyd's Landing," said Taylor. "Down in there at the lake, you can see how the old highway went."

Surrounding the scenic center picture of the quilt is



Jerry Taylor showing off the "History in Stitches" quilt chronicling 150 years of local history. Photo by Chad Stack

decades of local history from the time people started to travel here with horses and wagons in search of gold.

During his presentation, Taylor explained how the state of Georgia disposed of the Cherokee land with a lottery, dividing it into 160-acre lots. Officials from the early 1800s then drew numbers to give those lots to Americans who qualified to enter the lottery, said Taylor.

The four corners surrounding the center of the quilt feature four different quilt patterns that many native quilters are very familiar with, said Taylor.

He also talked about several other images on the quilt, including the picture representing Macedonia Baptist Church, the oldest church in the county.

The image of Towns County symbolizes the year 1856, when the county was created from parts of Union and Rabun counties.

There is also an image with a canon, the rebel flag

and the American flag for the county's history in the Civil War.

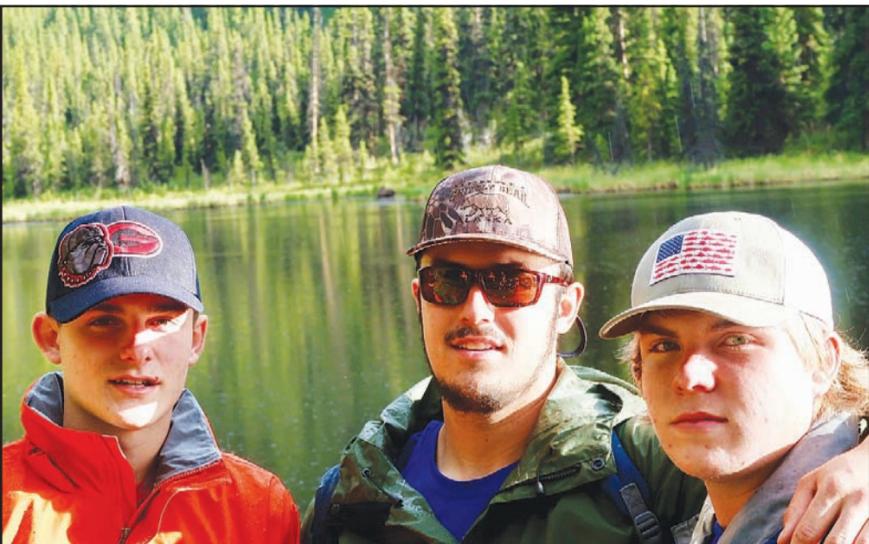
Also during the meeting, Movers and Shakers emcee William "Scotty" Scott asked for locals to help with strays in the county, suggesting that folks call the Mountain Shelter Humane Society.

"When you contact the Mountain Shelter, if you find a stray animal, please explain to them the situation and ask them to take the animal or find a home for it," said Scott. "If the Mountain Shelter does not take the animal because the shelter is full, the animal is sick, or for another reason, then please contact Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and inform him of the situation."

He said that the taxpayers pay about \$29,000 annually to support the Mountain Shelter.

The local Humane Society shelters over 800 animals every year, providing food and a healthy, clean environment, Scott said.

Alaska...from Page 1A



Seth Kinsey, Hunter Moss and Jacob Kinsey on a 2.5-mile hike in Alaska's Denali National Park.

private cars featuring seating and a catered lunch.

Then, the motor coach picked everyone up and they made their way to Anchorage and took the scenic highway called the Turnagain Arm down to Whittier, Alaska, through a 1.5-mile one-way tunnel.

After reaching their next destination, they boarded the Klondike Express and entered the Prince William Sound,

where they saw 26 Glaciers, including some tidal glaciers that met the sea.

Alaska celebrated the summer solstice on June 21 while the group was there, and it was unique in that it never really got dark.

On their last day, some of the group chartered a fishing boat and went halibut fishing about 60 miles off the coast, while others went kayaking.

They finished their Alaskan tour with a cultural experience at the museum and the Anchorage Market Festival before flying back to Georgia.

"We all learned so much about Alaska, not only its ecosystem and beauty, but the beauty of its rich culture and how the natives love and are connected to their land," said teacher Heather Nichols.

Minchew...from Page 1A

horse walks, jogs and lopes.

Judges keep a particular eye on how the horse's feet move, as leg motions should be smooth in competition.

During the stock seat divisions, judges are also looking to see how Minchew is riding the horse - is she using a Western saddle, a curb bit and only one hand to hold the reins?

When Minchew is riding Opie during Western Pleasure events, they are looking to see that she and her horse work together, and how she controls the horse with good posture while sustaining a pleasant ride.

"They are also looking for cleanliness, to see if your horse is banded correctly," said Minchew. "They want your horse to be spotless, and you have to be dressed in proper attire, and everything has to flow."

Minchew also finished in First Place in Western Horsemanship and Stock Seat Trail, and she was the Reserve State Champion in Western Showmanship and Western Pleasure.

Furthermore, she showed her hunter horse, All in Good Faith, aka "Zach," and was the State Champion in Hunter Showmanship and Hunter



Hannah Minchew jumping over an obstacle with her horse Zach during a recent training exercise. Photo by Chad Stack

Under Saddle.

Zach is also an American Quarter Horse, but he is only 6 years old, and Minchew shows and rides Zach for the hunter-style events.

When she shows Zach during the Hunter Showmanship, she uses an English-style bridle to lead him into the arena and guide him through a pattern.

Zach, too, is judged on his grooming and cleanliness during shows.

Minchew and Zach also compete in Hunter Under Saddle, where she is judged

on how she controls the horse around obstacles and jumps. The horse is judged on his manners and his quality of movement.

On Saturday, June 29, Minchew and her horse Zach headed to a Hunter Show in Tryon, North Carolina.

Minchew will also be representing the North West Georgia Horsemen's Association as the 2019 Stock Seat Princess at the State Federation Show over Labor Day week at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry.