



CC Manager David Dear accepts a crystal obelisk from Mayor Rick Murphrey during a city council meeting Monday night.

Cleveland County Manager David Dear was honored by City Council Monday night with a crystal obelisk in appreciation for his "great partnership with Kings Mountain" in helping to rebuild the economic life of the county over his seven year tenure as manager and his long service of 34 years as an employee of the county in other management and economic development roles.

Mayor Rick Murphrey made the pres-

entation, applauding Dear for being the center of improving infrastructure for all of Cleveland County as he worked with all municipalities for economic development and jobs.

Dear took the occasion to thank the mayor and Rep. Tim Moore for their role in positive working relationships here in the city and the county and Moore's role in state government in pushing for economic development and jobs for all of the county.

Tuesday: Dec. 13, "Tim Moore Day"



Rep. Tim Moore accepts a plaque from Mayor Rick Murphrey declaring December 13, "Tim Moore Day."

FROM Page 1A

select committee on University Board of Governors nominations and vice-chairman of the judiciary committee. He is a member of the elections, environment, finance, redistricting, public utilities and on the House select committee on agricultural regulations plus a dozen other non-standing

committee appointments in the General Assembly.

The mayor said Moore has worked hard to get legislation passed for the protection of children with the passage of the Jessica Lunsford Act, a law to ensure citizens are able to identify sex offenders, by introducing House Bill 219 Sex Offender Registry amendments and introducing

and championing House Bill 49 Laura's Law to ensure drunk drivers are punished to the full extent of the law.

Moore is a Kings Mountain native, son of city councilman Rick and Jean Moore, and married to the former Julie McRae. They have two sons and reside in Kings Mountain where he is a practicing attorney.

Farm: cashes in on golden sun

FROM Page 1A

planted its rows. Strata Solar of Chapel Hill handled the engineering, procurement and construction of the site, Bednar said.

"One of the beautiful things about solar is it doesn't require a lot of ongoing maintenance. It's clean and it's elegant in its simplicity," said Bednar, who operates out of Charlotte.

This new industry, which requires no permanent on-site staff to operate, moved in without the need for water, sewer or other utilities, but it was awarded incentives from the county - a break in taxes over 10 years.

However, Bednar estimates the project brought with it a \$25 million investment to the county.

Touring the farm

On the tour, Bednar explained that there are two types of solar farms, ones with a tracking system that moves the panels to catch the most sun and ones like this one whose panels are fixed in a permanent tilt.

"We basically modeled this with simulation software to determine, overall, what will produce the most power at the optimal time. And then we basically fix it that way. You're losing a little bit, but you're not having to worry about maintaining the mechanisms and the costs associated with building a system that tracks. It's a constant battle in what's the most economic answer," Bednar said. "We face it south so that it gets the sun the bulk of the year."

And although sunlight is key, Bednar said that the panels should still produce some energy even on a cloudy or rainy day.

"The government has collected weather data for years so over time with that really good data on what weather does, we can simulate what it's going to do," Bednar said, banking on predictability.

Each solar panel produces DC (Direct Current) electricity, which is collected by racks in four quadrants of the farm. The electricity travels underground to the sector's hub, where DC is converted to AC (Alternating Current) before it flows into Duke's existing lines.

Smart equipment, computers and sensors in the system help Birdseye monitor



Local artist Jewel Elliott, right, donated a chainsaw-carved mountain man (inset) to the Southern Arts Society Inc. The three-foot-tall statue guards the entrance to the Kings Mountain Art Center. SASI president Bernice Chappell, left, accepted the gift with enthusiasm. Chainsaw artist Brian Ackmonster of New Jersey, one of the nation's top chainsaw sculptors, who can often be found carving at the Cleveland County Fair, made the piece which was purchased and donated by Elliott.

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Gem: of a Christmas gift

FROM Page 1A

mining company Martin Marietta, which has donated much of the gravel to the Trails. Both companies are also helping with the history.

Brutko said that one sign will share history of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain in a scenic setting that overlooks the mountain in the distance. Another sign will include the history of Kings Mountain with a view of the city from the card

trail.

"This is a gift that's long overdue," Brutko said, already beaming from a truly merry Christmas.

The grant was sought through support from the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce, Tour Cleveland County and Haden Stanziale.

Anyone with photos, stories or information on the area's gem and mineral history is asked to email Shirley Brutko at sbrutko@carolina.rr.com

Corn: retires from City Council

FROM Page 1A

"I've enjoyed my service and wish Miller and all the council the very best," said Corn. "I am just tickled to really enjoy retirement."

Corn's retirement this week marks the second retirement for him during 40 years of service with the City of Kings Mountain. Corn was promoted through the ranks to the high office of police chief in 2000 and served

for two years, ending 32 years as a Kings Mountain policeman. A US Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he was drafted by Uncle Sam in 1970 and returned to Kings Mountain after two years of military service to resume his service with law enforcement.

Corn is married to Kathy Gettys Corn and their family includes two daughters and their families of five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Carroll: arrested after foot chase

FROM Page 1A

without manufactures numbers GS 20-108 (A), possession of a stolen motor vehicle GS 20-106 and chop shop activity GS GS 14-72.7 (A)(4).

While attempting to arrest Carroll, he fled on foot leading the police in a chase which led to his arrest in the Food Lion parking lot on Shelby Rd. Carroll was then transported to Kings Mountain Hospital for injuries sustained to his knee during the chase.

After being treated and

released within an hour, Carroll was transported to the Kings Mountain Police Department for processing.

He was then transferred to the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center.

Last April, Carroll was arrested and charged with eight other Kings Mountain men, facing more than 25 charges, combined, after the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department busted an auto theft "chop shop."

This chop shop ring targeted 1994 - 2002 Honda Civics and Acura Integra from Mecklenburg, Ruther-

ford and Catawba counties, which were allegedly brought back to Cleveland County where the vehicles were then stripped for parts. The "chopped" parts were either sold on-line or were used to build new cars law enforcement officers branded as "Frankensteins."

Carroll was charged with larceny of motor vehicle, two counts of chop shop activity, two counts of possession of stolen motor vehicle and two counts of possession of stolen goods and property.

that and we have really been building a strong industry here," Bednar said.

"The industry as a whole really started in the US. It really blossomed out of the space industry. This is the same technology that we had in the old calculator we had in school," he said, adding that the technology has just been "ramped up".

The Kings Mountain solar farm is the first Birds-

eye farm in operation, but Bednar says he has a "pretty full pipeline of upcoming projects."

Last Tuesday, Bednar gave two South Carolina senators and a representative a tour of the solar farm. And one day, maybe next spring, sheep will have a tour as they graze the grass around the solar panels. (It will cut back on maintenance costs.)

Advertisement for Shear Designs Day Spa featuring a holiday promotion: "Gift Certificates make Great Stocking Stuffers!" and "December Special - Facial or Massage". Includes a photo of staff members and contact information: 706-1 E. King St., 704-739-5601, www.shear designs day spa.com.

Advertisement for Griffin Drug Center featuring "Harold's Weekly Health Tip..." and "Holiday Joy can be difficult". Includes a photo of Harold and contact information: 129 Mountain St., Kings Mountain, NC, 704-739-4721. Lunch served Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 pm, Yes, Burgers at 9 a.m.!