

The Herald

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Religious leaders remember Pope

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shelby will hold an ecumenical mass for Pope John Paul II Friday at 7 p.m. The Pope died Saturday.

Kings Mountain religious leaders are remembering the pontiff for his contributions to Christianity and the world.

Rev. Carol Davis of Galilee and St. Paul United Methodist churches called him an ambassador for Christ and a role model for humanity.

She said John Paul was in touch with God and represented Catholics well.

Rev. Davis felt the Pope's life and death were in the hands of God.

"He served. He lived his days. His time had come," Rev. Davis said.

She said that denominational differences weren't a barrier for being open to God.

Rev. Jeff Hensley of Kings Mountain Baptist Church called the Pope a moral compass for many Christians. He described John Paul as someone with strength of will and warmth. Rev. Hensley said the devout probably felt both sad at their loss and joy for the Pope going home to God.

Rev. Hensley said he admired the Pope for traveling across the globe. He called John Paul's love and passion for the third world positive.

Rev. Ken Gillikin of Resurrection Lutheran called Pope John Paul a witness to prayer and an influential leader whose stance on issues have a clear effect on the world.

Rev. Gillikin said he was in prayer for Roman Catholic leaders as they select a new pope.

Rev. Bill Jeffcoat of St. Matthews Lutheran believes the Pope's contributions to the Catholic Church and

See Pope, 5A

Woman's Club's Centennial Saturday

Kings Mountain Woman's Club will celebrate 100 years of service to the community Saturday.

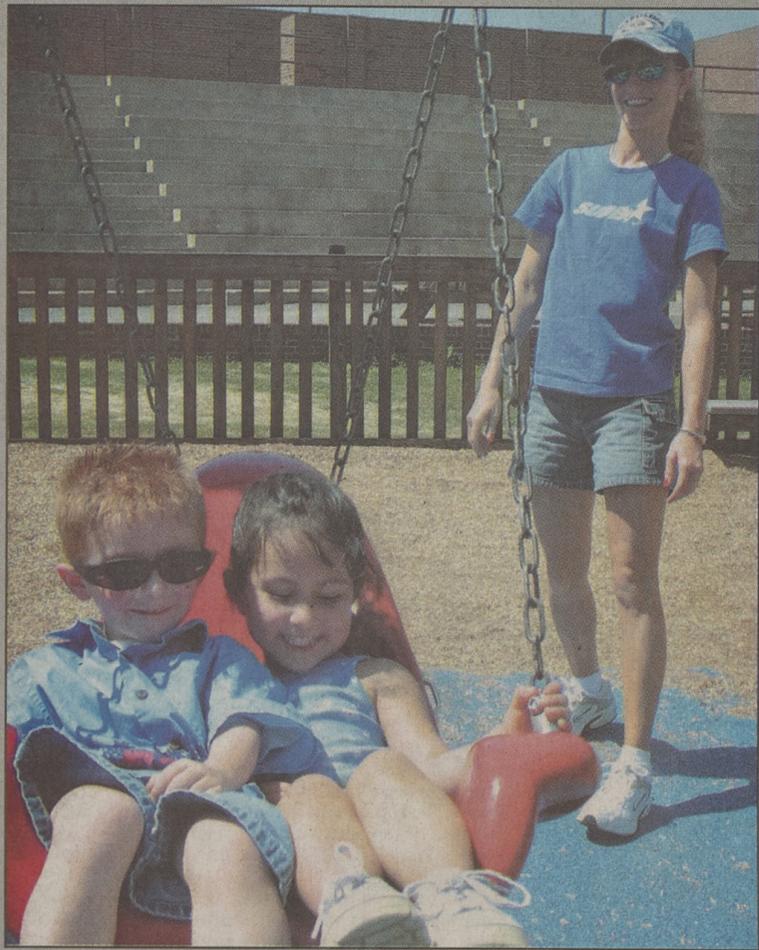
The celebration begins with a 10:30 a.m. reception in the clubhouse parlor. A luncheon will follow. Kings Mountain native Laura Carpenter Bingham will deliver the keynote address.

Carpenter is president of Peace College. Before accepting the position in 1998 she served in upper management at Covenant Health, Hollins University and the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Duke University. Carpenter also worked as an assistant for policy for Lt. Gov. Robert Jordan.

The woman's club began a century ago when several local women gathered to clean the cemetery. They also traveled to York, S.C. for a floral fair. Returning home impressed, they organized a fair of their own.

In 1905 the Civic League
See Club, 5A

SWINGING INTO SPRING



ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD
Jennifer Sears pushes her son Caleb Sears, 5, and family friend Samara Cole, 4, on the swing at the City of Kings Mountain playground adjacent to the YMCA. Sears' dad is Chris Cole. The family lives in Kings Mountain. Samara's parents are Shane and Gen Cole of Grover.

Gas prices are soaring

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Higher gas prices have local folks shopping around for gas and considering getting rid of fuel guzzling vehicles.

Bobby Elliott called the prices "a little rough" as he put \$35.31, just over half a tank, in his Chevrolet truck Tuesday morning.

Sitting in the passenger side, his wife Carolyn Elliott agreed, calling the gas prices "pitiful."

Elliott chose the Petro Express on N.C. 216 because the prices, \$2.16 a gallon, were the cheapest he had found. Gas was going for \$2.27 a gallon in Gastonia, Elliott said.

Mary Morrison of Shelby stopped after putting \$20 of gas in her 1988 GMC truck.

"It's too high. People can't afford this stuff anymore," she said.

Morrison is afraid the price of gas will drive up other goods.

The \$20 pit stop would only put a "dent" in her tank, Morrison said. When she bought the truck last year it took \$65 to fill up.

Robert Sneed of Cherryville called the prices "ridiculous." He's considering trading in his V6 Honda Passport SUV for a car. Sneed had switched to a lower grade gas when prices soared but spark knocking forced him to use the more expensive fuel again. Before gas went up it cost him \$25 to \$26 to fill up, now the price has risen to \$35.

Statewide gas is going for \$2.17 a gallon
See Gas, 5A



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Bobby Elliott puts gas in his truck Tuesday morning. He calls the prices "a little rough."

Music was always in Cole's blood

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Chris Cole, one in a long line of successful Kings Mountain High School band directors, will retire at the end of the school year.

During his tenure Cole continued a tradition of strong concert band performances. "We've had a long run of Superiors," Cole said.

The band is known across the state for consistently taking a grade six, the highest possible score.

The community both supports and expects a good concert band, according to Cole.

Former superintendent, Dr. Bob McRae, also was a big advocate for the arts including the band, Cole said.

Cole is quick to credit past band directors for setting a winning tone at KMHS. Dr. Paul Hendricks directed the band from the 1930s to 1941. Joe Hedden took over in 1945, directing till 1969. Donald Deal held the job from then until 1985. Cole worked as an assistant under Deal.

Gil Doggett has been Cole's associate director since 1991. The two both graduated from East Rutherford. Cole's wife Sarah was the associate director from 1985 to 1991.

Cole describes his job as "hard work, fun and very rewarding."

A member of the East Rutherford Cavalier Band during high school, Cole went on to pursue music at Western Carolina University.

"I enjoyed it. I knew that (school band directing) is what I wanted to do," he said.

Music flows through Cole's family tree. His grandfather was a band director and his aunt supervised music teachers for Gaston County Schools. Cole started piano lessons in second grade and trumpet the next year.

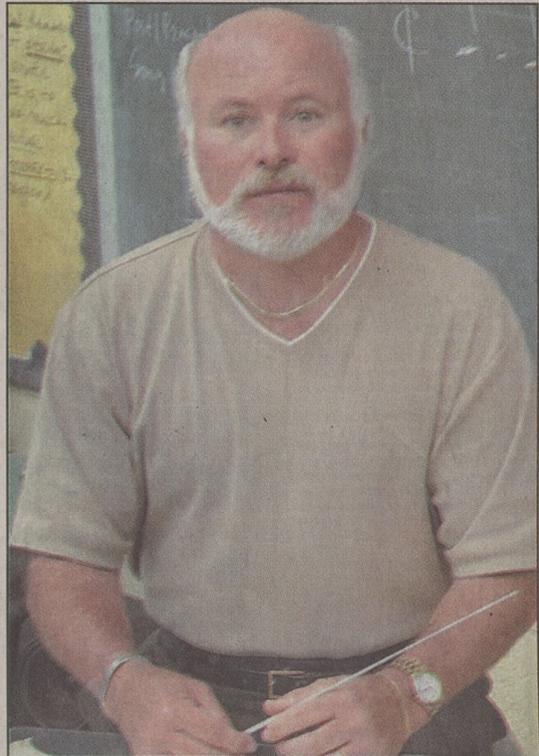
Over almost three decades Cole has watched marching bands change. He describes it as "more of an art form today." Instead of just marching up and down the field, bands use the entire space now. They are more willing to take chances, according to Cole.

KMHS band uniforms made a radical change under Cole, going from orange to the school's colors. According to legend, the school received a shipment of uniforms that should have gone to another school. Instead of returning the orange uniforms, the school decided it liked the color and marched in orange for years.

When it came time for new uniforms Cole advocated for switching back to the school's colors. Most folks agreed, though a few wanted to order new orange uniforms. In
See Cole, 5A

"I enjoyed it. I knew that school band directing is what I wanted to do."

**Chris Cole
KMHS band director**



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Chris Cole is completing a successful career as band director at Kings Mountain High School.