

Former Rams Football Coach Sheppard Dies

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Davie Lewis Sheppard, a former assistant football coach at Winston-Salem State University who came under scrutiny when he applied for the head coaching job last year, died Sept. 11. He was 42.

Sheppard suffered a massive heart attack while jogging near his Belmont, Mass. home. He was eulogized on Sept. 17 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Williamston, his hometown.

Sheppard was the offensive coordinator under former WSSU Coach Bill Hayes and also served as a counselor in the school's guidance office from 1983-1988.

Last December, when WSSU was looking for a new head football coach to replace Pete Richardson, Sheppard was the first one inter-

viewed for the position. It was believed by some who were critical of the search committee that school officials and Sheppard supporters were attempting to name him to the post without considering other qualified candidates. Sheppard was passed over for the position after it was revealed that he had lost his job at Williams College because of allegations of sexual harassment.

Sheppard was a graduate of Guilford College, where he was a record-setting tailback from 1969-1971. In 1981, he earned a master's degree in secondary education from Tufts University.

Mutter Evans, owner of WAAA radio station and who knew Sheppard from grade school, described him as a man who "loved people, was unselfish and loved challenges."

"He was a lifelong friend," said



Davie Lewis Sheppard

Evans, a Williamston native.

Sheppard is survived by his wife, Cheryl Myers Sheppard and a 9-year-old daughter, Margaux.

The family asks that in lieu of

flowers, contributions be made to the Margaux Sheppard Trust Fund, c/o Cheryl Myers Sheppard, 130 Oakley Road, Belmont, Mass. 02178.

Contest to Showcase Traditional Gospel Music

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

A group of local choirs, quartets and soloists will convene at the Dixie Classic Fair in October to showcase their talents for down-home gospel lovers.

The Winston-Salem Chronicle is hosting its first annual Gospel Contest to showcase traditional gospel music and to keep it alive in the black community.

Al Martin, a 27-year gospel music disc jockey and contest co-chairman, said traditional gospel music was chosen because it is the foundation for contemporary music.

"When you talk about traditional music, you're talking about back in slavery times," Martin said. "That's where gospel music originated. When there was nothing but clapping of hands and stomping the feet."

The traditional gospel theme

has attracted many local choirs who are entering not to compete, but because they love down-home gospel music.

On Oct. 4, the first night of the contest, five local choirs will perform: Mt. Olive Baptist Church Mass Choir, Ambassadors for Christ Choir, SBC Gospel Choir, Christ Rescue Temple Mass Choir and the Spirit of Life Community Choir.

Rev. Charles E. Gray, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, said the 60-member choir has been practicing each night.

"We're excited about being in it," Gray said. "I wish there would be more of it."

Gray said the choir released an album three months ago entitled *Let God Be God*, and they are also planning to record again soon.

The Ambassadors for Christ Choir, headed by David L. Allen,

recently landed a third-place finish among 10 other choirs at a national competition in Chicago. The 50-member choir has recorded several albums featuring guest appearances by Shirley Caesar, Darryl Coley, James Moore and others.

SBC (Shiloh Baptist Church) Gospel Choir has focused on traditional gospel music since its beginning in 1972. Choir director Eddie Bines said the 50-member choir entered the contest to help spread traditional music.

"I don't look at the choir's talent in a competitive nature," he said. "If we win first place — and I hope we do — we will donate it back to the church."

David Allen, who also directs the Spirit of Life Community Choir, said the group of school-age youths are beginning to rehearse after coming off a summer hiatus.

The 100-member group of

youths, whose ages range from 5 to 23, represent 80 different churches. Allen said they recently backed up Michael Bolton's Winston-Salem concert and appeared on BET's Bobby Jones Gospel Hour last summer. In addition to recording an album, they have performed with Be Be and Ce Ce Winans, Trumaine Hawkins and the Winston-Salem Symphony.

Although the style of music is designed to attract the older crowd, Allen says it could be a family affair even for youths.

Each of the five groups will be allowed 15 minutes to perform, and they will be allowed to use instruments. Also, Martin said, The Mighty Wonders gospel group will make a special guest performance.

"I don't think you can beat traditional gospel music," Martin said. "We're just going to have a good time singing and praising the Lord."

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Community EVENTS CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

How to Schedule Your Events: Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the Chronicle Calendar, 817 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7 a.m. — USAir's "Giant Flea" will be held until 12 p.m. at 799 Hanes Mall Blvd. (across from Lowes). Rain date: Oct. 2. To rent a space, call Denise at 661-8242 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. All proceeds from space rentals go toward USAir's community service projects.

8 a.m. — Family Services Inc. of Forsyth County will have a volunteer training session until 5 p.m. for volunteers interested in working with its Family Services Shelter, for battered women and their children, and Sexual Assault Response Services. Call 722-4457.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

3 p.m. — The Winston-Salem Masonic Prince Hall Affiliated lodges and chapters will honor their founder at First Woughtown Baptist Church, 838 Moravia St. The Rev. Dennis Bishop will be the speaker.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:30 a.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services Office will present the workshop "Obtain Your Degree: GED Testing." Jim Weiss of Forsyth Technical Community College will lead the discussion. For information call 727-2975.

6:30 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's Neighborhood Government Services Office will present "Choosing and Using Childcare." Mary Erwin of the Work/Family Resource Center Inc. will lead the discussion. For information call 727-2975.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8 a.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's

Neighborhood Government Office will hold a sign up until 5 p.m. for housing/volunteer opportunities with Habitat for Humanity. For information call 727-2975.

ONGOING

• The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold blood drives and CPR and first-aid classes throughout the city during October. For information call 724-0511.

• Registration for the Winston Lake Family YMCA Youth Basketball League will be held through Oct. 1. Registration times are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evaluation clinics will be held on Oct. 3 and Oct. 10. All youth must attend at least one evaluation. A parent organization meeting will be held Nov. 7 at 3 p.m. For information call 724-9205.

• The Forsyth Chapter of the American Business Women's Association is sponsoring a Christmas fundraising pageant to crown Little Miss Forsyth Chapter - ABWA. Girls, ages 5-10, are encouraged to participate. Call Mose Belton-Brown at 767-1583.

• The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem's ACT program is accepting registration for classes for students in grades K-12. Classes begin the first week in October. For information or to register call Charles Pringle at 725-7793.

• Exchange/SCAN will hold training sessions Oct. 2-5 for volunteer parent aides to work one-on-one with parents to stop the cycle of child abuse or neglect. Call 748-9028.

• The Winston-Salem State University Class of 1968 will celebrate its 25th reunion at Cafe

Piaf from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Oct. 9. Call Shirley Kindle at 924-4491 or Lawrence Starks at 1-800-245-7935.

• The Miss Forsyth County Scholarship Pageant is accepting applications for the pageant, which will be held Oct. 30. Call 768-5206 or 945-9031.

• The Little Miss Forsyth County Pageant is accepting applications for Forsyth and Davie County residents. There will be four age groups: (Tiny) 3- to 5-year-olds; (Little) 6- to 8-year-olds; (Junior) 9- to 12-year-olds; and (Teen) 13- to 17-year-olds. The pageant will be Oct. 16. Call 377-2787 or 768-5206.

• The Housing Authority of the City of Winston-Salem is looking for volunteers to work with the Scout Programs in four housing communities. Fridays have been designated under the RAID program (Residents Against Involvement with Drugs) as Scout Day. Leaders are needed for every age group and for boys and girls. Call 727-8500.

UPCOMING

• The 16th annual SECCA Santa, a pre-holiday shopping fund-raiser, is scheduled for Oct. 6-9 at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art. Proceeds support the Education Department which provides programs that benefit children and adults, especially underserved audiences. Some of the programs include "Archamagalits," a series of artmaking classes for children, ages 6-12, as well as art tours, films, lectures and an outreach program for nursing homes, hospitals, area community centers and schools/centers for the emotionally and physically challenged. Call 725-1904.

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