

## Pete Byam inducted into SD Country Music Hall of Fame

■ The Windom native's involvement in the music entertainment industry has reached 50 years.

Sunday was a big day for Windom native Pete Byam.

In a ceremony at the VFW club in Sioux Falls, S.D., attended by about 800 people, Byam was inducted into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame. The induction comes during Byam's 50th year in the country music entertainment industry.

"It's an honor that they would pick me. I never expected it," Byam said Saturday morning, prior to his induction the next day.

"Some friends of mine were inducted last year and the (Hall) got wind of me, we corresponded back and forth a few times and they called me one Sunday morning and said, 'You're going to be inducted into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame in September.'"

The Hall was started in 2004 and has been inducting new members each year since.

In 2009, Byam enters the South Dakota Hall along with other South Dakota country music legends Sherwin Linton, who performed at the Cottonwood County Fair several years ago, Dave Oyen, Rick Quincy, Darrel Hoiland and the late Burton Fromke.

For the past 16 years, Byam has called the Black Hills home. He lives and performs near Deadwood, singing weekends in July and August at the Gaslight in Rockerville, S.D.

In the winter months, he

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**PETE BYAM**

2009 South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee

lives in Arizona and performs anywhere from four to seven nights each week. He'll begin his 17th year performing at Arizona Joe's in Apache Junction and also sings at the East Mesa Eagles Club and the Mesa Buckhorn Elks.

He also performed at American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction and for 10 years, performed at Joe/Jo's in East Mesa.

### Musical roots in Windom

Byam, who was born, raised and lived most of his life in Windom, was a former auctioneer and co-owner of Soleta Byam Real Estate Exchange in Windom. After selling the business to Fritz Tasler in 1988, Byam started entertaining full time.

But to tap Byam's musical and entertainment roots, you have to go back to the 1950s. Pete gives credit to his sister, Betty Sher, for his singing talent. Pete says Betty would sit for hours at the piano singing with him.

Then, in 1956 Pete bought



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**WINDOM NATIVE Pete Byam receives a plaque from Wini Iverson of the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame noting his induction into the six-year-old Hall. The induction ceremony was held Sunday afternoon at the VFW in Sioux Falls, S.D.**

### Entertaining full-time

He got back to the stage when Linda Mix asked him to sing in the Open Division of the Cottonwood County Fair Talent Show. He won it and went on to sing at the Minnesota State Fair. While he didn't win there, the opportunity rekindled his desire to perform in front of an audience.

Two years after selling his real estate business, Pete's cousin suggested he take his country music talents to Branson, Mo. Starting in 1990, Pete worked five nights a week singing in different venues in the Branson area. A year later, he started entertaining in Arizona during the winter months then returned to Branson during the spring, summer and fall.

But in 1993, Pete landed a week-long gig at Fort Thompson, S.D., which ultimately led to his move to the Black Hills area.

### Still entertaining today

You can still find Pete on stage in several venues in Arizona during the winter and at The Gaslight in Rockerville, S.D., in the summer months.

But you can also find him on TV.

In addition to doing a few shows in Minnesota in May and June, Byam has appeared on *Midwest Country* which is broadcast on RFD-TV, Channel 62 in Windom. Over the past year, Byam has appeared on the show four or five times.

His next scheduled appearance on the show is Saturday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

his first guitar with his first paycheck, which he received from his first job working for his older brother, Corky, at Windom Tire & Fleet.

Two years later, during his junior year at Windom High School, he made his stage debut on what is now the BARC Auditorium stage.

"The first job I did in front of an audience was for a high school talent show in 1958," Pete recalls. "Jim (Anderson) Guddal and I had ukuleles and we learned two songs and sang them at the high school talent show."

"The next year, they had us

be the emcees and we sang the two songs again."

When Pete entered the service after high school, he took his guitar along.

"It seemed like there was always some party some place when you're in the service," Pete recalls.

After returning home from the Air Force in 1964, Pete was asked to play for a friend's birthday party at a local bar.

"When I got through playing that night, Bev said, 'If you play for me on Saturday nights I'll give you five dollars and all the beer you can drink.' I thought, 'Boy, is she

going to lose money,' " Pete said with a laugh.

Bass guitar player Siebe Muller joined Pete shortly thereafter and, after performing local gigs together for a year, they added drummer Gerry Buse of Slayton to form the band *The Sidekicks*. The group entertained throughout Southwest Minnesota and Southeast South Dakota for several years.

From 1975 to 1985, Pete backed away from the stage performing occasionally at area meal sites and nursing homes.

## Seventh-day Adventist to host 'Live With Hope' seminar

■ A three-night series of presentations kick off this free special prophecy seminar.

Seventh-day Adventist Church in north Windom will host a nightly seminar entitled "Live With Hope" beginning Sunday at 7 p.m.

Pastor Michael Jones, who serves the church in Windom as well as three other Seventh-day Adventist parishes in the district, will be the speaker for a series of presentations that begin Sunday at the church, which is located north of Windom along Highway 71.

Those attending will receive a free Bible and study guides and hear nightly music. Free child care will be available.

A former college football star and public school teacher, Pastor Jones surrendered his life to Jesus at the age of 28. Since then, he



**Pastor Michael Jones**

has travelled extensively throughout the United States preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

He currently lives in Pipestone with his wife, Aquarius, and their 2-year-old son Josiah.

The themes for the first three nights of the series,

which begin at 7 p.m. each evening, are:

- Sunday: "Revelation's Prescription for Peace" — Will the health care initiative bring peace to those stressed, depressed and in need of medication? Learn about a prescription for peace with a 100% guarantee.
- Monday: "Israel in the Bible" — What is all this talk about Israel? Does the Bible speak of Israel and the Palestinian conflict? How does this affect you? The Bible gives the answer.
- Tuesday: "Preparing for

the Rapture" — Though the word "rapture" is not spoken of in the Bible, the scriptures clearly reveal that there will be a time when God's people will suddenly be delivered. Find out how.

Future nightly topics of the prophecy seminar (each beginning at 7 p.m.) include:

- Sept. 22 — "God, Why So Much Suffering?"
- Sept. 23 — "The Gospel in Revelation"
- Sept. 26 — "Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs"
- Sept. 27 — "Out with the Old, In with the New"
- Sept. 29 — "Signed, Sealed and Delivered"
- Sept. 30 — "By Chance or Design"

For more information about the seminar series, call the church at 831-5566, or visit the website: [www.bibleprophecyseminars.com](http://www.bibleprophecyseminars.com).

## Look for the good

My grandfather, Erick R. Grosz, a barber by trade, a funster by spirit and a loving, hard-working man by my assessment, once told me that if he gave me a dime and I gave him a dime we would both have a dime.

Then, he said, "But if I give you an idea and you give me an idea, we will both have two ideas." That little illustration made "cents" to me, pardon the pun.

It is a nice way of saying we need to share our ideas for the common good as often as possible.

Consider how many voices were heard and continue to be heard regarding the completion of Highway 60 into Windom. Those were and are life-saving ideas!

So, as we go about our business, perhaps we can become more willing to share ideas for the good of all. I like the motto, "Look for the good and celebrate progress." It is not just our elected officials who make this place a better place to live (the newly completed



**PASTOR TERRY FROVIK**  
INTERIM PASTOR  
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th Avenue looks great!), it is all of us.

Our 2008-09 Windom Area High School boys basketball team knows the expression, "emojah." It is an African saying that means, "I am because we are."

We thought about this before one of the games last year. It is a way of thinking that takes the "I" out of sIn (since the biggest problem with sIn is "I").

Finally, we are in the business of telling folks how to turn toward the good. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is where we begin to look for the good. Jesus always meets people where they are and leaves them better than they were. We invite you to worship—the vehicle for finding new life, a new good look around.

So, let the "nay-sayers" blow their steam. I would rather "Look for the good and celebrate progress."

The Gospel of Jesus is the way forward. It's a great idea — perfect for our times!!!

*This is a monthly column supplied by pastors of the Windom Ministerial Association.*

## Goodwill trailer to make return visit to Windom on Tuesday

For the second time in two months, Goodwill's Ambassador trailer will be back in Windom to receive donations for one day only.

The Ambassador trailer will be back in Windom Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Goodwill's Ambassador

trailer will be parked at Mike's Auto Value parking lot toward the street.

Donations of sellable clothing, usable working small appliances and household goods, sporting goods and toys are to be placed as far to the front of the

trailer as possible. However, donations of furniture and large appliances will not be accepted.

Donations will be processed and sold in Goodwill stores to support the programs and services the organization provides for

people with disabilities and disadvantaged situations.

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The Bible says God loves a cheerful giver.

Well, so do we!

And who wouldn't?

Generous people tell us they receive far more than they give.

If that seems odd to you, this week in church learn why generous people can say that.

**She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.** Proverbs 31:10-31

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37 Psalm 1

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Sunday, September 20, 2009  
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