

# Bringing African music to The Belfry

Legendary Zimbabwean musician Thomas Mapfumo will come to Sisters for an evening of music on Friday, October 23 at The Belfry.

Mapfumo is known for his mbira-infused music that echoes the struggles of the people of Zimbabwe. He has performed his own Chimurenga music around the world since the 1970s, forming his group Blacks Unlimited in 1978 and continuing a storied career through over four decades.

Thomas Tafirenyika “Mukanya” Mapfumo was born in Marondera, Zimbabwe, in 1945. His early childhood moments, saw him tapping traditional music and instruments (ngoma, hosho and mbira) from his grandparents who were avid musicians in the village. Unbeknownst to him, that early stage set-up underlined with innocence would describe his future music career and earn him global fame. Around 1973 Mapfumo joined his first group, the Hallelujah Chicken Band in Mhangura, a small mining town. Initially, he sang in English but quickly spotted a need to express himself in vernacular and please his local fans. That way, he would



PHOTO PROVIDED

Thomas Mapfumo brings his Chimurenga music to The Belfry.

also spread consciousness and the call for freedom. He had a brief stint with the Hallelujah Chicken Band before joining with others to form the Acid Band. Realizing a need for seriously pursuing his own Chimurenga music genre, he then founded the Blacks Unlimited around 1978.

By then, Chimurenga music had morphed into a symbol for the struggle in war-torn Rhodesia. Through that music banner, he continued to taunt the colonial regime, denouncing poverty while advocating for freedom.

When Zimbabwe became independent in 1980, Mapfumo shared the celebrations stage in Rufaro Stadium with the Jamaican reggae

legend Bob Marley, opening more doors to international fame and recording opportunities in London.

Corruption, grinding poverty, and the decaying rule of law blighted a promising Zimbabwe, saddening hopeful masses and inevitably pushing Mapfumo to compose more lyrics as missiles for protest against his own government. The same music censorship characteristics of colonial Rhodesia also visited Mukanya upon his release of the “Corruption” album in independent Zimbabwe. In 2000, he relocated to the USA and continued with his music.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at [bendticket.com](http://bendticket.com).

## LETTERS

*Continued from page 2*

As in many cases, the answer is somewhere between the extremes.

James J. MacAfee

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

At Thursday’s council meeting my husband — Mayor Chris Frye — brought up the issue of Columbus Day and how we celebrate it. While this issue hits close to home for us, myself being half Native American, issues of social justice are much bigger than ourselves.

Chris brought to light the injustice of both the namesake and ideals we celebrate in honor of a man who supported rape, torture, enslavement and murder of countless innocent people for profit, because he considered them an inferior race.

I was shocked to hear most councilors felt this was not an important enough issue to warrant further discussion. While I was not surprised that a council so absent of diversity had trouble understanding the complexities of a minority viewpoint I was disappointed at the distinct lack of effort to even try.

The thing that really horrified me was that one councilor went so far as to question what kind of message tackling this issue would send to people wanting to move or do business here in Sisters. What message is the councilor worried we will send by joining the ever-growing number of cities to do away with a celebration of greed, cultural intolerance and brutality and instead celebrate Indigenous People’s Day?

Let Sisters send a message that we care about the cultural diversity within our community — however small that number may be — and that we understand the disservice we do to ourselves and our children, no matter their ethnicity, when we celebrate a day that so clearly goes against the values of equality, justice, and liberty that this country was founded on but so rarely in history got right.

Peggy Frye

♦ ♦ ♦

## Attention Nugget Advertisers...

# Holidays In Sisters Country 2015



It’s time to share your unique merchandise and personal service with Sisters Country in *The Nugget Newspaper’s* annual holiday section. This year’s special section will again include holiday features and winter-related news stories within the section to provide readers a useful resource for shopping Sisters and enjoying all that Sisters Country has to offer during the holiday season.

Your full-color ad will appear in this special section for three consecutive weeks: **November 25, December 2, and December 9.**

An advertorial discussing your business and a photo will appear in one of the three issues.\*

— **Cost \$295** —

**Added Value:** Complete flip book of the holiday section will be posted online at [www.NuggetNews.com](http://www.NuggetNews.com).

**Distribution:** Every household in the Sisters School District and picked up by visitors to Sisters Country.

**Deadline:** Tuesday, November 17 at 5 p.m.

**Bonus:** Run your ad in the December 16 issue for just \$65 and get full color for FREE!

**Call Lisa Buckley today, 541-549-9941.**

\*Specific advertorial run dates will be scheduled by *The Nugget*. This is a three-week promotion. By reserving space, the advertiser agrees to advertise in each of the three issues. Ad copy may be changed on a weekly basis, but it is the advertiser’s responsibility to notify *The Nugget* of any changes by 5 p.m. the Friday before publication.