

MOVIE LISTINGS

New Releases:

Impractical Jokers: The Movie-PG-13

The story of a humiliating high school mishap from 1992 that sends the Impractical Jokers on the road competing in hidden-camera challenges for the chance to turn back the clock and redeem three of the four Jokers.

AMC Classic Mankato 6

Fri: 4:35 p.m. 7:20 p.m. 10 p.m.
Sat. 2:50 p.m. 5:40 p.m. 8:20 p.m.
Sun. 1:50 p.m. 4:35 p.m. 7:20 p.m.

The Invisible Man-R

When Cecilia's abusive ex takes his own life and leaves her his fortune, she suspects his death was a hoax. As a series of coincidences turn lethal, Cecilia works to prove that she is being hunted by someone nobody can see.

AMC Classic Mankato 6

Fri: 4:25 p.m. 7:10 p.m. 9:40 p.m.
Sat. 2:40 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 8 p.m.
Sun. 1:30 p.m. 4:25 p.m. 7 p.m.

Cinemark River Hills Movie 8

Fri. 12:45 p.m. 4 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 10:20 p.m.
Sat. 12:45 p.m. 4 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 10:20 p.m.
Sun. 12:45 p.m. 4 p.m. 7:15 p.m.

My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising-PG-13

A group of youths aspiring to become professional superheroes, fight in a world full of people with abilities, also known as quirks. Deku and his fellow classmates from Hero Academy face Nine, the strongest villain yet.

Cinemark River Hills Movie 8

Fri. 7:30 P.M.
Sat. 2:30 P.M.

Now Playing:

1917-R

AMC Classic Mankato 6

Fri. 4:05 p.m. 7 P.M. 9:50 P.M.
Sat. 2:20 p.m. 5:20 p.m. 8:10 p.m.
Sun. 1:20 p.m. 4:05 p.m. 7:10 p.m.

Cinemark River Hills Movies 8

Fri. 12:55 3:55 p.m. 6:55 p.m. 9:55 p.m.
Sat. 12:55 3:55 p.m. 6:55 p.m. 9:55 p.m.
Sun. 12:55 3:55 p.m. 6:55 p.m.

Knives Out-PG-13

AMC Classic Mankato 6

Fri. 3:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 9:20 p.m.
Sat. 2 p.m. 4:50 p.m. 7:40 p.m.
Sun. 1 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

Sonic the Hedgehog-PG

AMC Classic Mankato 6

Fri. 3:55 p.m. 6:40 p.m. 9:25 p.m.
Sat. 2:10 p.m. 5 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
Sun. 1:10 p.m. 3:55 p.m. 6:40 p.m.

Cinemark River Hills Movies 8

Fri. 11:40 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 3:55 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 9:35 p.m.
Sat. 11:40 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 3:55 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 9:35 p.m.
Sun. 11:40 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 2:15 p.m.

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THE POWER OF MUSIC

First Presbyterian choir director bringing music to Waseca prison's female inmates



Bridget Hermer, pictured here at First Presbyterian Church, has been working with incarcerated women at the Waseca Federal Correctional Institution for the past four years. She is working with a choir that is part of the prison's re-entry program.

Bridget Coughlan Hermer to deliver talk on the healing power of music

By Diana Rojo-Garcia
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Music brings cultures together. It can be therapeutic. Different songs tell a story that can resonate with the listener. Playing music together can unite seemingly different groups.

Music can also be used to heal, much like what's happening at the Waseca Federal Correctional Institu-

tion with the choral program for women.

Bridget Coughlan Hermer, First Presbyterian Church's choir director, has seen how music helps women in prison rehabilitate.

Hermer has been visiting the Waseca Federal Correctional Institution on Mondays for the past four years. She began the program after taking a class on social justice work at the University of

St. Thomas where she explored the power of music in prisons.

"We had to create a project and so I started researching prison choirs in the United States," Hermer said, "come to find out there weren't very many at all."

Dr. Mary Cohen, a professor at the University of Iowa, did dissertation on a prison choir in Iowa.

"Mary had just done a phenomenal job of documenting what was happening in

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If You Go

What: First Fridays at First Church, Bridget Coughlan Hermer
When: Noon, March 6
Where: First Presbyterian Church, 220 E. Hickory St.
Cost: Free

'Mexican' is not a bad word, it's an identity for many Minnesotans

My last name seems exotic. It's hyphenated. It's long. There's even a color in it to shake things up.

It also spurs questions — "What is your real last name? Rojo? Or Garcia?" "Are your parents divorced?" "Is it pronounced 'roe-joe'?"

All these questions are welcome. I love them. It shows people are interested in my last name and my culture. The questions aren't malicious. In



DIANA ROJO-GARCIA
The Free Press

fact, I welcome them. There is one question, though, that always tickles me. "Where are you from?" Of course, I know now after years of hearing the same question, they mean "Where are you from from?"

And that's OK. I usually just tell them I'm from Minnesota to see the confusion on their face, then shortly after reply with, "Well, I was born in Mexico."

More often than not, whoever has asked the question then nods and asks, "Oh, so you're Spanish." Or "Latina," or "Hispanic."

No, man. I'm Mexican. "Right, Spanish."

No. I'm Mexican. Then, with some hesitancy, they say "Oh, Mexican."

It's happened every single time. I've never really understood why this didn't settle with me. If I didn't have a problem saying I'm Mexican, why is it so hard for everyone else?

And then it hit me.

People think that calling someone Mexican is almost like ... a slur? A bad word? A politically incorrect name for people from Mexico?

I remember one time where someone had confided in me stating that when they first met me, they didn't want to call me Mexican. They weren't sure if I would be offended. I appreciate the concern for my feelings, but why would I be offended, as if the word is synonymous with gangsters, rapists and criminals, *illegals* (the

negative connotation.)

I'm not really sure where that rhetoric came from, and it wasn't until now that I realized I *did* feel hurt. I just didn't know it at the time.

Growing up as a Mexican in America, those negative words didn't come to mind when I proudly told people my nationality.

Words that came to mind were scientists, thespians, poets and innovators, social activists and artists. I was incredibly proud to say that I had a little bit of Aztec blood in me each

time the subject came up in history classes.

I continue to be proud of sharing the same heritage as Pancho Villa and Benito Juárez, Frida Kahlo and Roberto Bolaño. We also have bomb food. We've invented awesome things: the Caesar salad, Flamin' Hot Cheetos, color TVs and tequila (you're welcome).

I won't inadvertently be shamed for my rich culture.

Needless to say, calling people Mexican is not a slur. It's not a bad word. It's my identity.

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