

Mini Mirror

WEEKLY PUZZLES, GAMES AND FUN FACTS FOR ALL AGES

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MONDAY

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Drummer touts healing of music

By COLETTE COSTLOW
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LORETTO — Local musician Jim Donovan was having lunch with his grandmother under a pavilion in Disneyland when he was first introduced to an all-African-American funk band. As an 8-year-old kid, he was quickly mesmerized by the vibrations produced by the bass and drums. “And I started to feel that in my little chest,” he said. “And I’m like, ‘I don’t know how, I don’t even know what this is, but this is the thing. Of all the things, this has got to be the thing.’”

MONDAY Spotlight

- PERSONALITY PROFILE
- Q&A
- OVERCOMING ADVERSITY
- SLICE OF LIFE
- ON THE JOB
- COMMUNITY TREASURE

Suggestions for Monday Spotlight subjects can be sent to Mirror Managing Editor Holly Claycomb at 814-946-7451 or hclaycomb@altoonamirror.com

So, Donovan’s grandmother bought him his first coffee-can drum, and he would take it down by the pool to “play for the people.”

What began as a passion blossomed into a successful career, as Donovan was formerly a part of the triple-platinum 1990s rock band Rusted Root, where he co-wrote and played drums on the band’s hit song, “Send Me On My Way.”

The song has gone on to receive more than 600 million Spotify streams, along with notable appearances in popular children’s movies “Ice Age” and “Matilda.” Not to mention that the song “woke up” NASA’s rover Opportunity, which operated on Mars from 2004-18.

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Healthy kids, happy faces

Blair Regional YMCA holds annual Healthy Kids Day

By HOLLY CLAYCOMB
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HOLLIDAYSBURG — Saturday dawned bright and clear, setting the stage for one of the best Healthy Kids Days ever, organizers said, remembering the rain that dampened last year’s events.

With dozens of booths and fun activities galore, families and friends of all ages had the opportunity to get outside, get active and have fun together — as a community.

“It’s the best day ever,” said Phyllis Baker, community engagement/fund development director for the Blair Regional YMCA.

Healthy Kids Day is an initiative of the national YMCA, aimed to pull kids and adults from their electronic devices and instead get out and get active. The day’s activities, all free, included a petting zoo, hay ride, a state police helicopter, games, face painting, snacks and more. There were also local vendors and community partner booths, set up inside and outside the Y.

One area — in the grass and on the basketball court — that garnered a lot of interest Saturday featured Penn State Altoona kinesiology students encouraging active play.

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Mirror photo by Holly Claycomb
Iris Henry, 4, of Altoona had a blast ducking under the parachute, part of the outdoor activities at the Blair Regional YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day.

Gunman kills 8 children in Louisiana mass shooting

Police: Suspect killed 7 of his own children in domestic incident

The Associated Press

SHREVEPORT — A gunman in Louisiana killed eight children, including seven of his own, and shot two other people Sunday in an early morning attack of domestic violence carried out across two houses, authorities said, shaking a Shreveport neighborhood in one of

the nation’s deadliest mass shootings in more than two years.

Those killed ranged in age from 1 to about 12 years old, and one of the adults wounded was the mother of some of the suspect’s children, said Shreveport Police Department spokesperson Chris Bordelon. The suspect, whom Bordelon identified as Shamar Elkins, died after a police pursuit.

Investigators did not say what may have set off the violence. Bordelon said there was still much to investigate but that detectives

“This is an extensive scene unlike anything most of us have ever seen.”

Shreveport Police Department spokesperson Chris Bordelon

were confident the shooting was “entirely a domestic incident.”

“This is an extensive scene unlike anything most of us have ever seen,” Bordelon said.

He said Elkins had been known to police and was arrested in 2019 in a firearms case. Officials were not aware of any other domestic

violence issues.

Officers fired at the suspect during a chase after he carjacked a vehicle at gunpoint, Bordelon said.

Police said the attacks began before sunrise in a neighborhood south of downtown Shreveport when the suspect shot a woman at one home and then drove to the

other location “where this heinous act was carried out.”

Seven children were killed inside the second house, and one was found dead on the roof after apparently trying to escape, Bordelon said.

State Rep. Tammy Phelps said some children tried to get away through the back door. “I can’t even imagine what the police officers, first responders actually dealt with when they got here today,” she said at a news conference.

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