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**FEBRUARY 2018**

# TV's Super Salesman, Johnny Ross!

by Cheryl Harvey Hill

If you have seen any recent television commercials for Johnson's Furniture in Nacogdoches or Lufkin, you know exactly why you remember it. It is due to the wildly whacked out, yet utterly endearing sales genius, Johnny Ross.

On his website he has a video that shows "The Many Faces Of Johnny Ross." If you watch the video, you realize one very obvious fact, there is actually only one face for Ross. His bug-eyes are as well-known as his famous arm-swirling, fast talking pitches which all include, at some point, "you got-ta, got-ta, got-ta." Well, after interviewing him, I'm here to echo that sentiment and tell you that you really do "got-ta" get to know this, semi-retired, creative pitchman. Within the first five minutes of our interview, he made me laugh at least five times. He gives new meaning to the phrase "quick wit" and his comedic sense of timing is spot on.

When I ask him if he writes his own commercials, with just a hint of sarcasm, he laughingly replied, "Have you seen any of them? Does it really look like I took time to write them?" He credits his success to the fact that he has never written a commercial, they are all ad-libbed. Flying by the seat of his pants works very well for him.

He was born in Oklahoma, raised in Texas, but he is known all across the country because of his crazy commercials. He is now semi-retired and when he isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his wife. He and Denise were married 26 years ago at a "drive through" wedding chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada. He says their limo driver was their witness and he also says he can verify the old saying, "the third time's the charm," since this is the third marriage for both he and his wife.

As an Army veteran, who served fifteen months of his four year tour in Vietnam, he loves talking to other veterans from that era. He volunteers at the OK City Veteran's Corner where he helps facilitate veteran benefits for veterans and their spouses. It is an organization run entirely by volunteers. He jokingly refers to himself as the "donut dolly," but he takes a lot of pride in volunteering and he sincerely relates to the soldiers he meets. He says that many veterans, and/or their spouses, don't realize they earned benefits if they served during the Vietnam era, it doesn't matter if they went to Vietnam or not. After a few minutes of serious conversation he is once again making me laugh.

Ross credits his success to the fact that he is not the perfect commercial image you are used to seeing. He says the "average Joe" (and Josephine) can relate to

him. But after talking with him, I think it's a lot more than just that. Although his crazy sense of humor and the way he leans toward the TV camera, like he is going to jump right into your living room at any given moment, may get your attention, I think it's his personality and a lot of charisma that keeps it.



Johnson Furniture and Appliance has been in business for over fifty years, spanning four generations. At the present time "the most experienced furniture and appliance dealership in the oldest town in Texas" is run by Randy Johnson and his son Jared. They are the third and fourth generation of Johnsons to manage the business. Randy says that hiring Johnny Ross to do their commercials was his son's idea but after seeing one of the commercials on the Internet, Randy simply didn't share Jared's enthusiasm for hiring Ross. But Jared wouldn't give up so Randy finally decided to let Ross do a commercial. He figured it was the best way to get his son to stop bugging him about it and he also felt it would be a good way to show Jared that when it came to the commercials, "father knows best." So, as you can imagine, no one was more surprised than Randy when things turned out the way they have.

Randy is now one of Ross's biggest fans and he has a genuine respect for his business acuity and people skills. He says Ross is not only one of the most intelligent people he's ever met, but also one of the most genuine and kind. He has been a true blessing to their store and far exceeded their expectations. Randy has been in business for more than forty years and in that time, he has done a lot of radio

JOHNNY ROSS - Page 2

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JOHNNY ROSS

and TV. Working with Ross has been "an absolute pleasure," he says, "I can't say enough good about this man." There are no questions, Ross tells him what he is going to do, he knows what he needs to do, and he just does it, because they trust him. He has never had to second guess Ross, nor would he, and he is delighted to concede to Jared on this matter. He isn't going to say he was wrong, but he will say Jared was right. Ross may be unconventional but he is also a true gentleman and the only ad man Johnson Furniture will have from now on. You may view many of Johnny's commercials which have been used to sell almost every product you can imagine at [www.JohnnyRoss.com](http://www.JohnnyRoss.com).

Johnson Furniture is located at 106 E Main Street in Downtown Nacogdoches - Ph: (936) 564-6471  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8AM - 5:30PM - Sat 8AM - 4PM - closed on Sunday  
[www.facebook.com/JohnsonFurnitureandAppliance](http://www.facebook.com/JohnsonFurnitureandAppliance) - [www.shopjohnson.com](http://www.shopjohnson.com)

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*Hey friends, Larry Nabours here. If you want the best bang for your advertising buck, look no further than Around The Town. You've heard of Bed Bath and Beyond. Well, David Stallings and his crew are from that "Beyond" department (in more ways than one!) cause they go above and beyond to make sure you get your money's worth! LugNutz has been with 'em since the git-go and I couldn't be more pleased! It's brought in so much more business that we've had to hire extra security to handle the crowds! Thanks David and crew for all you do! Darn Skippy!!!*

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Political Advertising paid for by Rhonda Ward, 638A N University Dr., #221, Nacogdoches, TX 75961



*Around the Town* is published and distributed on the first day of each month. 8,000 **FREE** copies are available in more than 120 locations in Nacogdoches County and it may be viewed online **FREE** at [www.AroundTheTown.us](http://www.AroundTheTown.us).

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*Our Pledge . . .*

*Around the Town* and its publishers seek to provide the people of this area with news and information about the current events and happenings in the categories of dining, entertainment, sports and the arts, while providing a venue for retail and commercial establishments, as well as local artisans and non-profit and service organizations to present themselves to the public. We also strive to feature some of the rich history and culture this area is particularly known for.

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- Field technician servicing rural cellular needs with 25 years in the telecommunications field
- Husband to Amy and father of three

**Nacogdoches**  
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## See You "On Cloud Wine" for the Sixth Annual Wine Swirl

by Amy Mehaffey

The City of Nacogdoches Main Street program is excited to announce that tickets for the sixth annual Wine Swirl are on sale now! Join us "On Cloud Wine" as you stroll down the red brick streets, tasting some of the best wine selections that Texas has to offer! Be sure to check out the amazing local entertainment, including the Nac Pac Jazz Trio and Madame Le Cerceau, as you explore the unique

shops and boutiques of Nacogdoches. The ticketed wine and food pairing event will showcase Texas wineries and local and regional food trucks along the historic brick streets. Proceeds will be used to enhance the beautification and promotion efforts of historic downtown Nacogdoches.

For the 2018 Wine Swirl event, wineries will be stationed outside of Downtown shops in booths – like a Wine festival! You will be able to purchase glasses and bottles and sip while you shop. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy wine samples from Texas wineries - but you are encouraged to purchase a glass of something you love! Food will be available for purchase from several local and regional food trucks, including The Red Tulip, Eat a Bite, Merci's World Cuisine, Say Cheese, and Brendyn's BBQ. "This is our biggest Wine Swirl event so far," stated Main Street Director, Amy Mehaffey, "This year we are encouraging our guests to find a wine that they love and buy a glass to take with them as they shop, dine, and dance on our brick streets! We will have wine passports showcasing information about each winery, so you will know where to find your favorites long after the event."

Don't let the day end once Wine Swirl is over! The Fredonia Hotel extends your experience of floating "On Cloud Wine" by providing a luxurious room and a bottle of wine with an exclusive Fredonia key opener as a souvenir! Whether in-town or out-of-town, we hope you will join us at our host hotel for the entire weekend.

This year, our Swirl packet pick up will be located in the soon-to-open Red House Winery at 108 E. Pilar Street, located next to Watts Law Office and behind Johnson's Furniture. Your packet will include your event map, wine bag, glass, and new wine passport! Parking is available at City Hall, on the square, or at Red House Winery. You may also pick up your packet early on Friday, February 9 from 4:00-6:00 PM or the day of the event from 3:00-6:00 pm. Remember, Main Street will be closed on the day of the event so plan accordingly.

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# 2018 Trends in Home Designs

Cathy J. Marberry – Interior Designer, Johnson Furniture

It's that time of year when we start watching for the newest trending colors and Interior Design ideas for the home. According to HGTV Home, design Works Int. and Studio NYC Designs, Lavender and Lilac are the new 2018 colors!

Although the color Greenery was the Pantones 2017 color of the year, it wasn't as strong as expected. But predictions are that green will come in stronger for 2018. Shades of Olive and Chartreuse are predicted color shades for this year, reflecting nature and complementing a warm and cozy home.

And when it comes to style, circles are trending. You'll see this in coffee tables down to round pillows on the sofa or bed! Although this is trending for 2018, I have personally been a fan of round tables and round accent pillows for a long time. Round or oval tables are great for angling chairs in your room, and especially for small, tight spaces, allowing flexibility with furniture placement. Plus using a mix of round with so many other straight lines helps soften the overall feel of the room, giving interest to the design concept.

The idea of painting your trim and walls the same color – Tone on Tone- is trending. This "trend" is always a good choice if your trim is small and insignificant and something you really don't need to stand out. I've always suggested that if you don't have large ceiling molding, DON'T accent with a contract paint color. If you do, it results in a small racing strip around the top of the room that certainly doesn't look good. Even if your baseboards and door casings are a contrast color, just painting your small ceiling molding the same color of your walls will give the impression of a taller ceiling and be a much better look for the room itself.

The idea of even painting your furniture pieces the same color of the wall and trim was recently suggested by Fixer Upper Joanna Gains, with accenting with a contract hardware color.

We saw the comeback of brass in 2017, but it shows to be stronger in 2018. Lacquered wall panels instead of wood will be a new look. Natural stones, baskets, textures and velvets will all still be in for this year. Subway tiles of simple and sleek clean lines were big in 2017 and will still trend in 2018. One difference will be larger scale sizes and even big size porcelains. Functionality is the key with less grout for cleaning.

So, no matter what the 2018 trends are in Home Decor...just make sure it's something you love and makes you happy. Just because it's the Trend...doesn't mean it is right for you!

It's your home! Make it reflect your own personality! Enjoy 2018!



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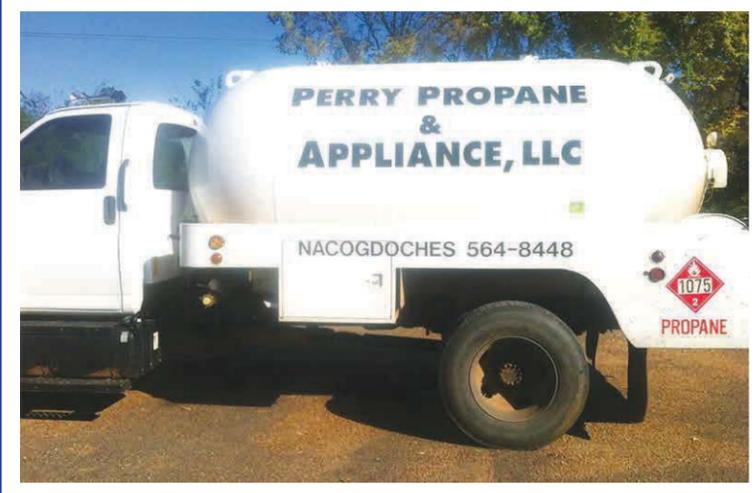
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## Remembering Generations Past

Sometimes I like to take a look back. I'm not sure if it's because I was a history major in college or I just get sentimental at the beginning of a new year.

That look back recently brought back many memories of Nacogdoches. The history here is like nowhere else in the state. I can only imagine Sam Houston walking these brick streets at one time, along with many other historical characters and heroes.

Fast forward about 100 years and you will find some of my own ancestors walking the town square. My grandparents eloped from Shreveport to Center and got married at the first justice of the peace they found across the state line. They settled in Nacogdoches after work brought my grandfather south to Lufkin. But their home was always in Nacogdoches. From a cabin on the "river" to a larger one built with their own two hands, they lived, laughed, worshipped and shopped in Nacogdoches.

Seems like in those days the road between my home in Lufkin and Nacogdoches seemed long. The narrow two-lanes of traffic took about 30 minutes to travel. By the time I began driving, I would beg my parents to let me drive back to Lufkin from their home just north of the Angelina River Bridge. As a young adult, the visits got further apart and I drove my own car. But never did I leave my grandparent's home that my grandfather didn't warn me about that long two-lane river bridge. "Watch that old bridge baby, it will kill you if you're not careful," he would say.

I still think of his words each time I cross it. Except now, US 59 between Lufkin and Nacogdoches is a four-lane roadway with two concrete bridges across the river. What a difference a generation makes. The future looks bright and there are many more changes ahead for much of US 59. An interstate will change the landscape someday and future generations will know it as I 69.

One thing I hope will never change even though modern roadways will. I hope the brick streets of this great city still look the same as they did when Sam Houston walked over them. Getting from the present to the future will take a commitment and some patience from many of us, but TxDOT is committed to building safe, reliable routes of travel for present and future generations that connect us all safely. I hope as this occurs that you enjoy your ride into the future, but don't forget to take a turn down memory lane every now and then.

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Anita Scott



# Nac County Exposition and Civic Center

## *What's Hot with Anita Scott*

February is a busy month y'all! We have a little of everything going on this month.

### **FEBRUARY 2, 2018 – LOVE INC, CHAIRISHED BLESSINGS**

This unique fundraiser featuring dinner and a silent auction is a great way to have fun and support a worthwhile charity! Friday, February 22nd from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 each, or a table for 8 for \$250, or a VIP Table for 8 with your own personal server for \$500. SFA students (with ID) are \$25.

New and repurposed furniture and accessories are assembled into amazing vignettes by competing teams. There is a design competition for the best booth and for the best repurposed item. One of my favorite items from last year was a dog bed made from an old console TV!

Get your tickets early before they're gone! Call Love Inc at 936-569-8555 and reserve your table today.

### **FEBRUARY 3, 2018 – CODY JOHNSON & FRIENDS**

We are all looking forward to the Cody Johnson & Friends Nacogdoches featuring Cody Johnson with Special Guests Mark Chesnutt, Jon Wolfe & more to be announced! The concert is Saturday, February 3, 2018. You can get your tickets at [codyjohnsonmusic.com](http://codyjohnsonmusic.com) or locally at Banita Creek Hall. The show is for all ages; however, to be admitted into the VIP section you must be over 21. Doors will open at 5:00 PM, and all seating is General Admission (with the exception of the VIP Section). Alcohol will be sold on site, no coolers or lawn chairs will be allowed. For more information visit [codyjohnsonmusic.com](http://codyjohnsonmusic.com)!

### **FEBRUARY 10-11, 2018 – G & S GUN SHOW**

There's nothing like the smell of gunpowder in the morning! G & S offers a variety of vendors from firearms and ammo to concealed carry bags and purses. Hours are from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$8.00 per person, come Saturday and it's good for both days.

### **FEBRUARY 17-18, 2018 – TEXAS MARKET GUIDE HANDMADE ARTISAN FAIRE**

This is an all new event from Texas Market Guide. It was originally scheduled for September of last year, but Hurricane Harvey had other plans. The show features one of a kind handcrafted items and the artist who created them. Doors will be open Saturday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 for adults or only \$4.00 if you bring a non-perishable food item donation benefiting The Harvest House Food Bank. Children 12 and under are free.

### **FEBRUARY 17-18, 2018 – REGION V HIGH SCHOOL RODEO**

Free Admission and Free Parking. Concessions are available. Saturday: Starting at 10:00 AM, Sunday: Starting at 9:00 AM. Watch these young athletes compete in Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Team Roping, Breakaway Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling and Goat Tying.

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band times 1:00 - 5:00, or 6:00 - 10:00 for \$25; Sunday Armbands 1:00 - 6:00 for \$15. Midway Times: Thursday 5:00 - 11:00 p.m., Friday 5:00 p.m. - Midnight, Saturday 1:00 - 11:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. (All time weather permitting).

### **FEBRUARY 22, 2018 – CLOTHING CONCEPTS CLOTHING SHOW**

This one day clothing show offers a variety of family clothing at discount prices! There is no charge for admission or parking. Come early for the best finds!

The Nacogdoches Pro Rodeo & Steer Show will be March 22-24, 2018! If you are interested in becoming involved we have a variety of sponsorships available. If you are interested in a vendor booth please contact our office at 936-564-0849 or [nacexpo.net](http://nacexpo.net).



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# Fun for Everyone Offered During Nacogdoches February Weekends



**Stephanie Fontenot**  
 CVB Marketing Director

February is an exciting month to be in Texas' oldest town. There's a variety of events that take place, including two jam-packed weekends that offer a little something for everyone. If you haven't taken a look at our February calendar, it's time to do so and pick out your own can't-miss events.

First, we invite you to join us "On Cloud Wine" for a weekend full of local libations and pre-Valentine's Day fun Feb. 9 through 11. We'll kick things off with a Friday-evening Valentine's Day Wine, Whiskey and Brew Tour sponsored by Lumberjack Harley-Davidson. The tour takes guests to three new locations including Fredonia Brewery, Naca Valley Vineyard and the Front Porch Distillery for facility tours and tastings at each. While this would make a great date

night for couples, anyone is welcome to purchase tickets as long as they're 21 or older. For more information about the tour including a link to purchase tickets, go to [www.VisitNacogdoches.org/wwb](http://www.VisitNacogdoches.org/wwb).

The weekend will continue with the sixth annual Wine Swirl hosted by Nacogdoches Main Street from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, on the brick streets of our historic downtown. This ticketed wine and food pairing event showcases multiple Texas winery booths and local and regional food trucks set up outside our downtown shops. Attendees will receive an event map, wine bag, glass and wine passport. The Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center is the official Wine Swirl host hotel, and we hope you'll join us for the entire weekend. To book your stay, call the hotel at (936) 564-1234. For more information about the entire weekend including a link to purchase Wine Swirl tickets or to book your stay online, go to [www.VisitNacogdoches.org/wine-swirl](http://www.VisitNacogdoches.org/wine-swirl).

You don't want to miss this popular event!

The Nacogdoches Film Festival is the next February weekend event you should consider attending. This year's festival will take place Feb. 22-24 at the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center and will include short film showings, panel sessions, a VIP reception and more. For more information, including film industry special guests, lodging, tickets and more, go to [www.VisitNacogdoches.org/film-festival-packages](http://www.VisitNacogdoches.org/film-festival-packages).

Looking ahead, our one-of-a-kind spring season will be here before we know it. Get your

cameras ready and make plans to join us in the Garden Capital of Texas as we admire the vibrant hues that greet us as our azaleas begin to bloom. It's a gorgeous time of year in Nacogdoches.

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My name is **DAVID PERKINS** and am up for re-election for Nacogdoches County Justice of the Peace in Precinct 4. Having knowledge of criminal laws as a former investigator for the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Department has given me vital insight in dealing with all aspects of the court within the county. In addition, I have 22-years experience in civil law.

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Judge David Perkins

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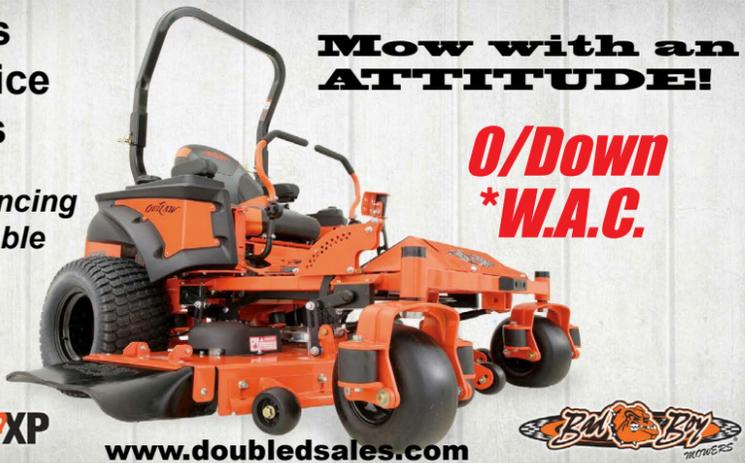
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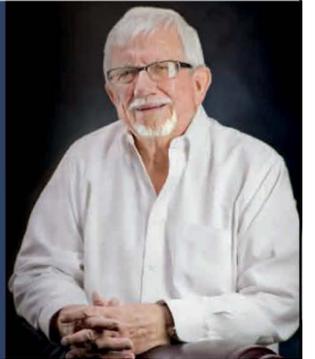
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- Voluntarily cut his own salary by \$20,000 upon taking office
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- Helped restore almost \$1 million to the Road & Bridge budget
- Helped restore \$688,312 to the Sheriff's budget
- Helped restore \$483,960 to the Jail budget
- Led the development of the truck weigh station to improve safety and earn revenue
- Placed in reserve \$632,046 for future needs
- Has served the County full time as County Judge

"We've accomplished a lot but there's more to be done. Like any family or business, we must continue to operate on a budget and plan for the future. Together we can do it but I need your help and your vote."

- Mike Perry



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## Chamber Connection

by Kelly Daniel  
Executive Vice President,  
Nacogdoches County Chamber  
of Commerce

# Barn Quilts Are Coming to Nacogdoches!

The Pineywoods Barn Quilt Trail is forming now and will be a new attraction for all who visit or live in the Nacogdoches area. The Chamber unveiled its barn quilt in January. Announcements of the barn quilt trail are spreading and excitement is building!

For those not familiar with a barn quilt trail (understandable with it being new to our area), it is a mapped trail of installed barn quilts at businesses and residences. Barn quilts require no traditional quilting, may be installed on structures other than barns, and can be made from a variety of materials such as wood or metal. The size of the barn quilt may vary, too, and the designs can be based on a quilt block design or created by the owner. The rule to follow is that the barn quilts must be in public view, so that anyone traveling the barn quilt trail may be able to see it easily, even if it is on private property.

The Nacogdoches Quilters Guild gets the credit for bringing the barn quilt trail to East Texas, and the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce thanks the guild for donating the barn quilt that anyone may view on the Chamber's north exterior wall at 2516 North St. More barn quilts are popping up in the area and will be added to the Pineywoods Barn Quilt Trail map. The Chamber has put the call out to the business community to participate, because of the great potential of drawing more to the business locations. The Pineywoods Barn Quilt Trail can go beyond our Nacogdoches County borders and create a significant economic impact in our region. The trail map will be created in March, so if interested in having a barn quilt, please contact Pauline Patterson at (936) 569-2326 by March 1.

All invited to these Chamber events:

**Ribbon Cutting celebrating Cason Monk-Metcalf Funeral Directors 125th anniversary** 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5400 North St. Enjoy a come-and-go reception after the ceremony and hear about more events planned celebrating the business' 125-year anniversary.

**Alive After Five** hosted by **The Helping House** 5:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22 at the new facility, 401 Houston St. This Chamber business after hours event is only held once a month. Catch up with friends, make new business contacts, and pass out that business card! All attending have the chance to win nice door prizes and Chamber members are entered in a cash prize drawing, but you must be present to win.

For more information about all Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce events, please go to [www.Nacogdoches.org](http://www.Nacogdoches.org) and check the online event calendar, or call the Chamber (936) 560-5533.

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# Have You Been Catfishing Lately?

Have you been catfishing lately? I'm not talking about going "catfishing" with a line and a pole or a fishnet. I've recently learned about a new use of the term. The name refers to the practice of someone who creates a fake identity to deceive another person for purposes of an online internet relationship.

"Catfish" is the title of a 2010 independent documentary film that followed the

**"REED ALL ABOUT IT!"**  
by Dr. Allen Reed

story of Nev Schulman as he set out to meet "Megan," a woman he made contact with and fell in love with online. The only problem was – Megan didn't exist. Megan was a fictitious person made up by a real person named Angela Wesselman.

Wesselman's husband, Vince Pierce, offered this explanation about "catfishing." "In the early days of transporting cod from Alaska to China, the fish were arriving in Asia lethargic and atrophied. The solution? Put some catfish in with the cod to keep the cod agile." And there are those people who are catfish in life. "Catfishing" has become shorthand for faking the identity of a person for the purpose of carrying on a relationship.<sup>1</sup>

"Catfishing" isn't restricted to the internet. It happens, unfortunately, in everyday life. Other terms that can define "catfishing" are words like hypocrisy, deception, and lying. Is "catfishing" a harmless prank? Is lying or being deceptive okay? Ask Lance Armstrong. Ask any baseball athlete who has been kept out of the Baseball Hall of Fame for doping.

Here is God's warning to our culture: "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape" (*Proverbs 19:5, NASB*). Have you been "catfishing" lately?

**A LITTLE HUMOR:** The late Ann Landers challenged her readers to come up with the world's third-biggest lie – right after "The check is in the mail" and "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help you." Here is a sampling from the thousands she received: "It's a good thing you came in today. We only have two more in stock." "Five pounds is nothing on a person of your height." "The puppy won't be any trouble, Mom. I'll take care of it myself." "You don't need that in writing. You have my personal guarantee."<sup>2</sup>

1. "What is a 'Catfish' hoax? How Manti Te'o story links to film, TV show" by Cortney Hazlett, NBC News, Thursday, January 17, 2013.
2. Lowell D. Streiker, *A Treasure of Humor*. (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2000), 241.

Copies of Dr. Reed's devotional books, *Reed All About It! Daily News From the Good News*, are available from First Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, Texas or Amazon.com.



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# Tickets Now on Sale for *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK*

The Lamp-Lite Players will be presenting *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK*, a romantic comedy by Neal Simon centered around two newlyweds, Corie (played by Tiffany Gauntt) and Paul (played by Jon Gauntt), as they begin married life in a tiny, 5th-floor walk-up apartment in a Manhattan brownstone. Opening night is Friday, February 9, at 7:30pm.

Paul is a strait-laced attorney, while Corie is a far more spontaneous, free spirit. As the young couple contend with a lack of heat, a skylight that leaks snow, several long flights of stairs, oddball neighbor Victor Velasco (played by Tim Hogle), and Corie's well-meaning mother (played by Pat Harris), they must also reconcile their own personal differences in how they approach life's challenges. Adjusting to married life isn't so easy!

Les Balty plays the telephone repairman and Frank McCuller will reprise his role as the delivery man.

**PERFORMANCE DATES:** Feb. 9 & 10, 2018 at 7:30pm  
Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 at 2:00pm  
Feb. 16 & 17, 2018 at 7:30pm — Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 at 2:00pm

**AUDIENCE DRESS REHEARSAL:** Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018 at 7:30pm

TICKETS are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (age 60+) and \$8 for students and are now available for purchase at the following ticket outlets:

- Glass Castles — 323 East Main, DOWNTOWN, (936) 560-3249
- Kline's Wrap-It-Up — 628 North University, (936) 560-0700
- Nacogdoches Convention & Visitor's Bureau — 200 East Main, DOWNTOWN, (936) 653-3788

If you are out of town or cannot stop by one of the above ticket outlets, you can also call our answering service at (936) 564-8300 and tell them what night and how many tickets you need.

For up-to-date information on Lamp-Lite Theatre, visit our website and like us on our Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you at Lamp-Lite.

Linda & Bill King — *House Managers*  
www.lamplitetheatre.com

# Pet Cemetery - Nacogdoches, Texas 1963

by Jerry Permenter

My daddy said "There is never enough alcohol in the world to bury your sorrows if you're born tender hearted." My mom was more to the point, saying, "Jerry has always been the tender hearted one. He'll cry over a stillborn puppy like he's lost his best friend, but then him and Janice will cart it off to that cemetery they've started down by Sam's creek."

What Mama was referencing was a little enclosed wooded area, fenced with chicken wire between the trunks, a bent metal gate, what once served as a calving pen for an old farmer. It appeared to have the makings of a good pet cemetery to my five year old eyes. It was a beautiful, lush green space, as many East Texans know so well. Dogwood was always draping overhead in spring, with honeysuckle vines blooming all down the fence, Indian paintbrushes and sunflowers in the summer, and wild mums growing rampant there each fall.

It started with our burying deceased wood beetles in kitchen matchboxes. These "Betsy bugs" as we called them, didn't decay, so we could keep them out for a viewing, and neighbor kids who braved the heat and dusty roads up to our house had something to see. Then we'd solemnly lead the procession of children back to the pet cemetery, and allow each to bring a flower picked along the way. An audience and someone good at mourning was always better for a good pet home going. My sister Janice had also perfected a keening wail she could turn on and off like tap water.

Later, we might decide to bury an armadillo ran over by a local chicken truck out on Highway 7, if it wasn't too mangled, but they had to go in fast (and deep). Nothing died often enough for us, as even death moved at a snail's pace in the rural days of our youth, so we'd scavenge for the cemetery until the real thing happened. And sometimes, it actually was a cherished pet.

Pete and RePeat were our parakeets, and when RePeat tried to lay an egg too large for her tiny body, she just keeled over right off the perch. We dumped Janice's school supplies from her King Edward cigar box, and set about preparing a velvet coffin for RePeat. We found a heavy red curtain in the attic, half eaten by mice, then cut perfect squares to glue on every surface. We scissored my dad's black dress socks for a liner because he never needed them for anything. "You kids go ahead, the Good Lord is more likely to give RePeat a better reception than I'd get wearin' them, anyway." Dad would lean back, perfectly balanced in the straight back chair on our front porch, smoking a cigarette, loving the show of his two youngest building a parakeet coffin.

"You know," he said, "I thought those birds were two males, anyway. That's what your mama always told me. So when that egg showed up, it surprised me as much as it did ol' RePeat! Dangdest thing!"

Sad as it was, RePeat made a magnificent corpse, resplendent in pastel hues of blues and white, with just a tint of luminous pink against the black liner, her noble beak still held high. "Cover her butt up, so she won't be embarrassed," Janice reminded me, as the egg was still visible and distracted from an otherwise serene repose. I felt bad for the bird, yet grateful we not only had a fitting funeral display, but a perfect cemetery in the woods for the procession that would take it to its final rest. It was a beautiful spring day, and I had my King James Bible, replete with white cover, and had carefully bookmarked all the good funeral passages with sprigs of fresh clover.

So, RePeat's funeral was to be a grand one, our largest to date, and we planned it for two days. We had a good turnout for that service, as Miss Reid walked all the way over via the log bridge from her house a full two miles away. Mr. Giles and Mrs. Cureton came with their old German Shepherd, which meant a lot, since Mr. Giles was retired from the FBI. When Irony, our old cat died from being poisoned a couple of years earlier, we had gone to Mr. Giles to seek his input and hoping he could investigate it. He did have a lot of time on his hands. Irony had survived many mishaps as a kitten, including my putting him in the butter churn while my grandma was churning one Saturday on our porch, and my uncle said it was ironic he was still alive. So his name became Irony.

Once, when we found a huge water moccasin near the Cureton house, Mr. Giles walked down slowly, leaning on his cane to see where we'd killed and bagged it in a toe sack, and lectured us about how dangerous snakes could be when you messed with 'em. We listened respectfully, but knew we'd do it all over again any chance we got. We had a lot of respect for Mr. Giles, because even his dog seemed to be smarter than everyone else's. Once, when I was about five, going to visit Ms. Reid to pick up milk and eggs, I had to cross over the log foot bridge to her house. I was terrified, and it was the Cureton's German Shepherd who crossed over to me after I started to cry, and gently pulled me across by my shirt. The instant he gingerly took my collar in his mouth and pulled me forward, I knew I would be fine.

Following RePeat's service, there would be many others, including Rusty, our



*Jerry Permenter was born in East Texas and grew up in Nacogdoches County. He is transitioning to creative writing, with a memoir, "Red Dirt Boy" to be released in 2018. You can follow Jerry on Facebook at Red Dirtboy or on Instagram as @thereddirtboy.*

beloved apple headed chihuahua. We were rough kids sometimes, I think parents wouldn't casually leave their own children with us, because we were never indoors, swinging on grapevines over the East Texas creeks and tanned brown as berries. We were as likely to spend all day building forts along the creeks, catching turtles, tadpoles and crawfish. We played pretty rough too, I realize now in looking back. Our baseball games were always between all six of my siblings, with the older ones splitting the sides up so each had their share of young liabilities. It was during one of these games, when I was deemed too short to bat that my brothers decided I should swing standing on the edge of our front porch. In early years, we didn't have a baseball, and used big old hard shelled pecans, but we did have a good solid bat.

My first swing from the porch was meant for a home run, but it caught poor Rusty the chihuahua right behind his little melon head, and he keeled over without even a kick. I was hysterical, because I'd killed Rusty, even though I knew he wouldn't be as missed as if it had been our other dog Spot. Old Spot was a hunter, for both squirrels and rabbit, so he was handy as a pocket on a shirt. But, Rusty barked like a mad dog, at everything, anyone, even when the wind just blew through the wisteria, he would commence to barking like it was the second coming. I had witnesses it was an accident, so I wasn't concerned about too harsh a punishment.

But, we also wanted to keep Rusty's body from being seen by my oldest sister, Judy, because he was her constant, watching as she painted her toenails, barking when the lid on the toilet was dropped too loud, or even when a whippoorwill or rain crow would call mournfully from the pine thickets nearby. By then, I had also started keeping a good stash of coffin materials handy, so I knew a shoebox would fit Rusty just fine, and we quietly agreed to a quick interment, knowing we might even get back in time to finish the game. Then later, when Daddy got home from work, we told him what happened, he cautioned us again about playing too close to the house, breaking a window, possibly killing a dog, or each other.

What we hadn't prepared for was later that evening, when Rusty somehow regained consciousness in his little shoe box coffin, and apparently dug himself out of the shallow grave we'd placed him in, teetered up the trail from the cemetery and proceeded to wander inside through the back door, staggering a bit with just a little pile of red dirt still resting on top of his head. Dad was drinking whiskey that night, and I remember him shouting "SweetLordAMighty!" when Rusty blinked his way back into our lit kitchen. Old Rusty was fine, just a tad groggy for a bit, and lived for many years after that most premature burial.

Of course, we kids thought it was an East Texas miracle. I felt it might be a spark from my sermon, 'cause I'd been preaching full throttle from my pine stump pulpit. And maybe, just maybe, it truly was a miracle. I do recall Rusty held a place of high reverence in our household from that day forward. And the very next year, we got our first baseball and gloves from Western Auto down on Main Street. Blessings in abundance.

Life was good for us then, and it has never been better since.



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*Angela's  
Monthly Recipe*

**Fudge Topped  
Brownies**

*Angela Bradford is the owner/  
operator of Appleby Sand Mercantile  
Café in Nacogdoches.*

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 2/3 cup cocoa
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 tsp vanilla extract, divided
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 2 cups semi-sweetened chocolate chips
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- little bit of butter to grease the pan



**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Grease baking pan.

Stir together butter, sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, eggs, milk and 1-1/2 tsp vanilla extract in large bowl; beat well. Spread batter in prepared pan.

Bake for 40 min. or until brownies begin to pull away from sides of the pan.

Just before brownies are done, in a saucepan, melt choco-chips with sweetened condensed milk and remaining 1-1/2 tsp vanilla extract. Immediately spread over hot brownies. Cool and refrigerate. Cut into bars.

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Heart of the Pines Chorus is an extraordinary group of women from the Nacogdoches area who gather together in celebration of the a capella art form known as barber-shop music. Directed by TJ Reed, the chorus can be heard throughout the year, singing for civic and charitable organizations, private groups, churches, community events, and fundraisers. A fall show, singing telegrams for Valentine's Day, veterans' memorials, and annual regional competition round out each year.

Heart of the Pines Chorus is always looking for new members and performance events Rehearsal is each Monday at North Street Church of Christ in Nacogdoches from 6:30-9pm. Visitors are always welcome!

For more information please visit our website at [heartofthepineschorus.org](http://heartofthepineschorus.org).

And find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Heartofthepines/>



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# MONUMENT CORNER

This month's installment of MONUMENT CORNER brings us to the corner of North Street and Muller Street, Site of the Mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Today it is the home of the AutoZone Auto Parts Store. The monument reads as follows (*translation: Our Lady of Guadalupe*):

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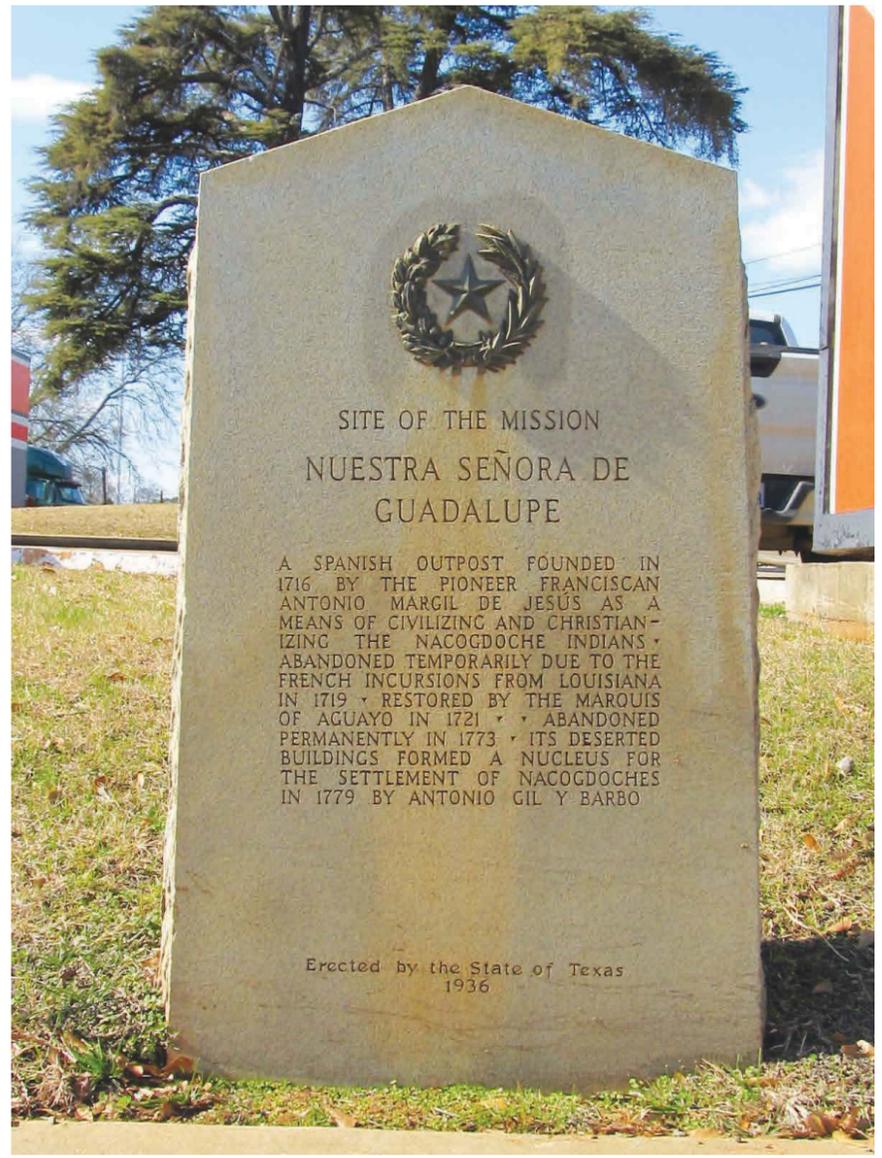


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Contact Miriam Mumm at 936-559-8222 for more information. Visit the **Drill in the Pines** Facebook page or email [roselakeranch@roselakeranch.com](mailto:roselakeranch@roselakeranch.com). Sponsorship available.



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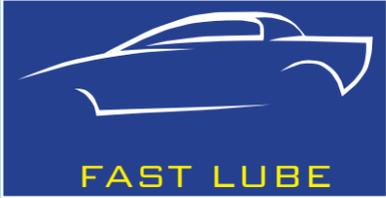
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 **BE MY VALENTINE!**

### LIVING

## Five Creative Gift Ideas for Your Valentine

(StatePoint) Looking to surprise your loved one this Valentine's Day with something a bit different? Check out these five creative gift ideas that will help make the day special.

**1. Take a trip around the world with your taste buds.** Cooking dinner for your partner on Valentine's Day is nothing new, but kick it up a notch with an "Around the World" theme. Pick some destinations you'd love to travel to and get into the kitchen together to create their signature dishes. For extra points, track down drinks specifically found in those regions to pair with your food. You'll have fun experiencing new cuisine, and it may even ignite a spark to book a trip!

**2. Make more time together.** Use some creativity to show your Valentine that you want to spend more time together. Pair a new timepiece with roses for a unique presentation. Consider classic fashion choices with Casio's Vintage timepieces, which feature stainless steel bands in different metallic color combinations, a daily alarm, hourly time signal and an auto-calendar, ensuring you are never late for a date.

**3. Commission a custom family portrait.** Whether you have kids, pets or it is just the two of you, a custom family portrait is a sweet gift and a great piece of artwork for your home. Find an independent portrait artist on a site like Etsy or put your own artistic abilities to the test and create the portrait yourself.

**4. Create an at-home spa day.** Get pampered without leaving the house. Book a travelling masseuse or create DIY bath products like bath bombs or scrubs with essential oils. Create a spa-like atmosphere with low lights, candles and flower arrangements. Order dinner in afterwards and enjoy the special time together as relaxed as can be.

**5. Write a love song.** Whether you write it yourself or pick a favorite that's personal to you, performing a love song is a touching way

to show you cherish someone. Enhance your performance with a portable keyboard that makes learning easy, such as Casio's CTK-2550. It features 61 full-size keys, 400 high-quality tones and 150 built-in rhythms to ensure you have all the tools you need to create a beautiful musical number for the one you love. Or, connect to your iOS or Android device to use the free Chordana Play app, which uses the keyboard's display to show you how to play your favorite songs. Just download your favorite MIDI files, connect your device's headphone output to the keyboard's audio input, and explore an endless library of music.



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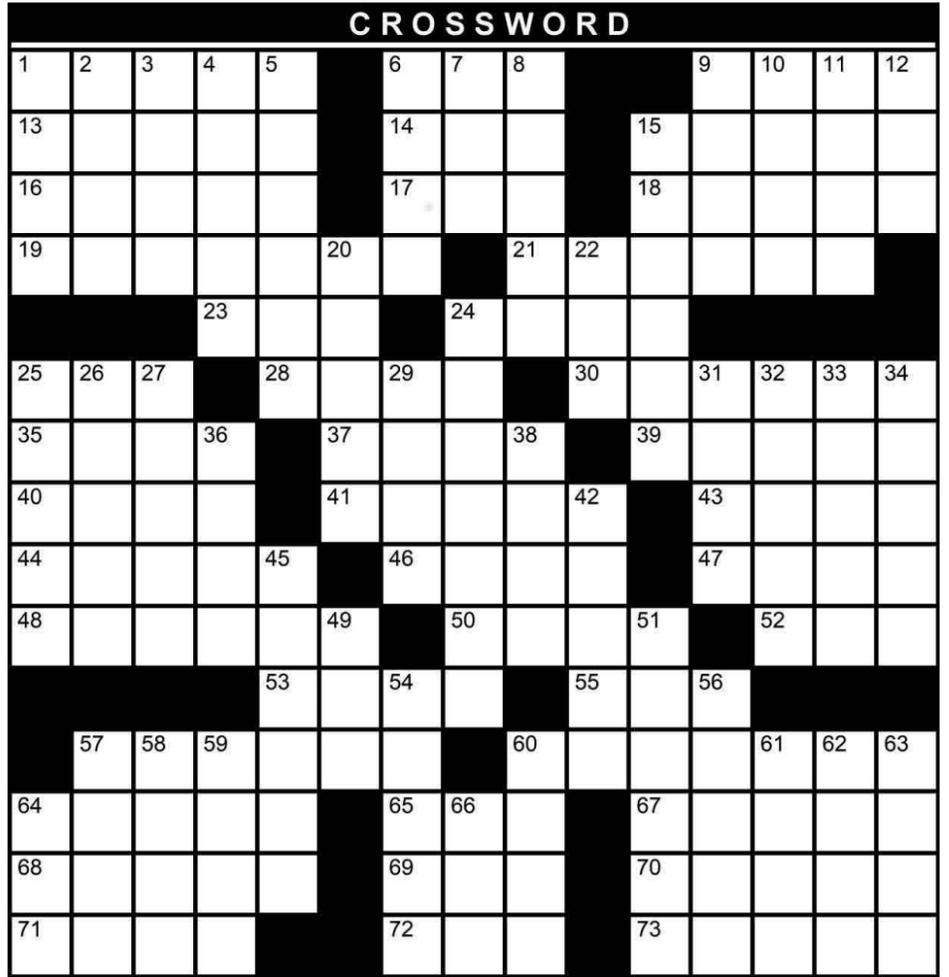
**THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY**

**ACROSS**

1. Nerds
6. \*Dad's Valentine
9. \*Seal with a kiss and do this
13. Marconi's wireless telegraphy
14. Nightcap rocks
15. Relish tastebuds' sensation
16. Fervor
17. "Le \_\_\_\_ des cygnes"
18. Togetherness
19. \*Botanical Valentine's Day gift, pl.
21. \*Romantic taper
23. \*Princess Jasmine's love interest
24. Per person
25. Rub-a-dub-\_\_\_\_
28. Distressed cry
30. Asphalt alternative
35. Native-American storytelling tradition
37. Sound of impact
39. Royal headgear
40. Morally reprehensible
41. Type of rug
43. Tennis serving whiz
44. Painter's support
46. Dust allergy trigger
47. It "was made for you and me"
48. \*He played Lara Antipova's lover, 1965
50. Swerve
52. Is, no longer
53. Fireplace part
55. Corn unit
57. \*St. Valentine, e.g.
60. \*Author of earliest Valentine's Day reference
64. Chinese silk plant
65. Fluffy accessory
67. Window treatment
68. Change the Constitution
69. Annoying pop-ups
70. Implant
71. It can turn pumpkin into carriage
72. Fishing mesh
73. Relieves

**DOWN**

1. Steffi of tennis
2. "Me and \_\_\_\_ and the Dying Girl"
3. Cocoyam
4. Native of American Great Plains
5. Very much
6. 0.001 inches, pl.
7. Mozart's "L' \_\_\_\_ del Cairo"
8. Hajj destination
9. Head-hiding place
10. Bad to the bone
11. Post-it slip
12. Like some martinis
15. Broad-brimmed beachwear
20. Watts events, 1965
22. Make a scene
24. Hard to pin down
25. \*Avian symbol of love, pl.
26. "Umble" Heep
27. Crafter's wood
29. Impulse
31. Iranian coin
32. Cockatoo's cousin
33. Rome's Colosseum
34. \*Paper greetings
36. Suggestive look
38. \*Valentine's Day Get-together
42. Medicinal worm
45. Up in the air
49. Tsetse, e.g.
51. Traveling entertainer's helper
54. Opposite of rural
56. Aung San Suu Kyi's home
57. Vicki Lawrence's Thelma Harper
58. Echoed by the flock
59. Source of zest
60. Those in a play
61. Uber competitors
62. "The Three Musketeers" dueling sword
63. Bolsheviks
64. Like sashimi
66. Schiller's " \_\_\_\_ to Joy"



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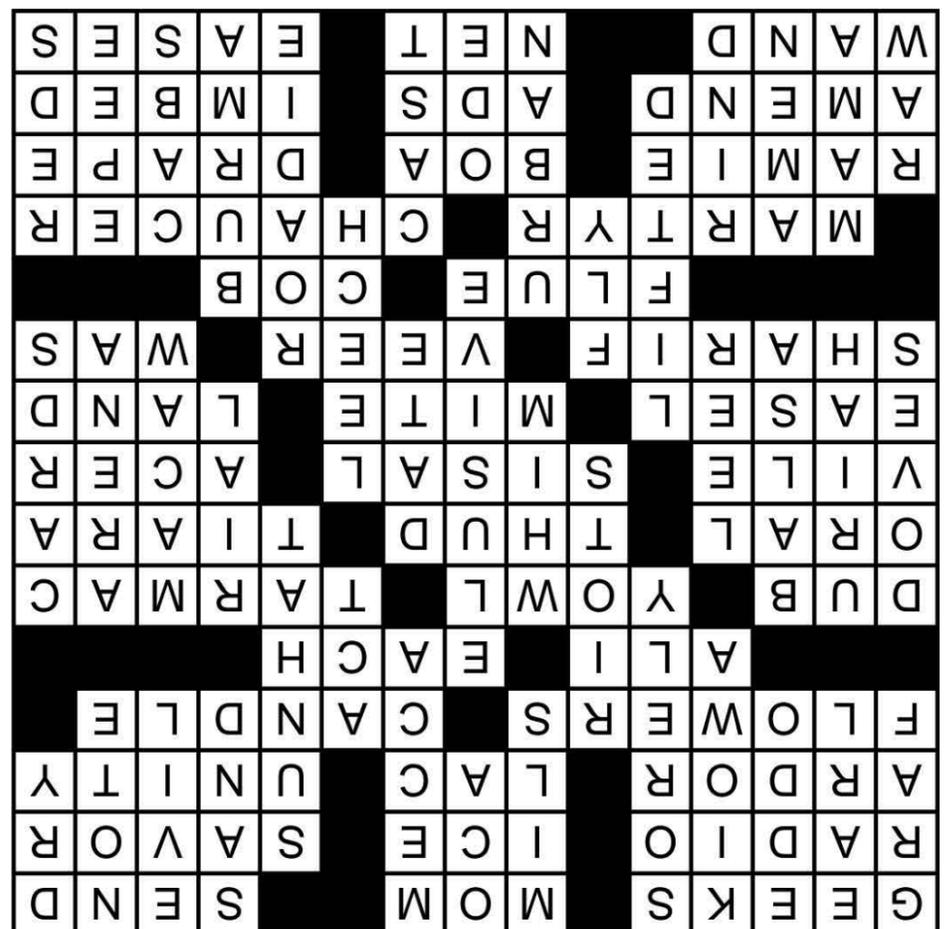
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If you want your name out there, there's no better local advertising than **Around the Town**. The paper is seen just about everywhere you go and is a valuable source for local news and events. David and his dedicated and talented staff treat you like family from the first day they meet you. Let them help grow your business as they have mine!

-Adán Mandujano *Owner VIP Cleaners*

*Puzzle answers.*





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# VIP Cleaners

DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY



ADAN MANDUJANO – OWNER  
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**Feel great about looking great!**

**We use only 100% Environmentally-Friendly  
Non-Toxic Bio-Degradable Chemicals**

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# INTRODUCING



## Handmade Artisan Market

### Feb. 17 & 18, 2018

Sat: 10am-5pm Sun: 11-4

### NACOGDOCHES COUNTY EXPO

3805 NW. STALLINGS DR. NACOGDOCHES, TX 75964



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