

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount, Nashville, Tarboro & Wilson NC Edition – 919.623.9392

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Eastern North Carolina

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**Volume 3, Number 14B
June 21–July 4, 2013**

A Little Bit of History

Eastern NC’s 1961 Nuclear Mishap

It was January 24, 1961. The Cold War was in full swing. Tensions were high between the US government and Russia. Americans feared a nuclear strike would be initiated by Russia. US aircraft with nuclear weapons on board crisscrossed the continent day and night, with hopes of reacting quickly in case of a nuclear conflict. Before leaving office, President Dwight D. Eisenhower severed relations with the Cuban government. President John F. Kennedy took office, and four days later two nuclear bombs fell from the sky over NC.

It was an accident. A US Air Force bomber completing its mission for the night ran into trouble. Their aircraft broke apart — five of the eight crewman escaped — and their payload of two nuclear bombs fell near the Davis farm in Taro. The village of Faro, a dozen miles northeast of Goldsboro, became a hub of military activity. Recovery of the nuclear bombs were of utmost importance. There were concerns that the bombs might explode, taking a large chunk of NC and many Americans with them.

One bomb’s parachute brought it to a relatively gentle drop by a roadway, making recovery easy. The second fell freely to the ground, broke apart, and pieces push more than 100 feet into the swampy earth of near Nahunta Swamp.

The farm of Charles T. Davis became a flurry of activity. Recovery teams and excavating equipment filled the field. Bomb parts emerged from the muck one by one. After weeks of searching, some of the bomb components were recovered and others were still missing — reportedly including radioactive uranium. The decision was made to fill in the deep, mucky hole and end the search. Unable to recover some of the nuclear components, the US Air Force purchased a permanent easement from Mr. Davis and his heirs. This ensured the area would be undisturbed as it prohibited any digging beyond standard farming depths.

Not long after this Goldsboro-area scare, President Kennedy authorized increases in “PALs”, Permissive Action Links,

that would greatly lessen the risk of unauthorized nuclear weapon use. But it would be seven more years before the continuous airborne alerts with active nuclear weapons would be stopped. They were cancelled within twenty-four hours of the crash of a B-52 and Broken Arrow at Thule, Greenland in 1968.

It may never be known how close Faro came to disappearing. Incident records are classified. The government, initially claimed they were searching for a lost airplane seat, admitted they were seeking a “broken arrow” (lost nuclear device) after incurring almost half a million dollars in search costs. Witnesses involved in the recovery have said that the bombs came close to detonating.

Joel Dobson authored The Goldsboro Broken Arrow, a book released in 2011. The e-book was released this year. To find out more about this important NC happening, the book’s second edition can now be purchased through the website www.thegoldsborobrokenarrow.com.

According to Mr. Dobson, “...the most amazing thing to me was to find the people involved, people who were actually in this very unusual airplane crash and nuclear accident, and to get them all together at the actual place where it all occurred, fifty years later. And now we are discovering how important that crash was, probably the closest we have every come to a nuclear detonation on American soil.”

According to Mr. Dobson’s research, Dr. Jack ReVelle, the only man alive who has deactivated two thermonuclear weapons, said of the Goldsboro Broken Arrow: “How close was it to exploding? My opinion is damn close. You might now have a very large Bay of North Carolina if that thing had gone off.”

To this day, the North Carolina Division of Radiation Protection tests groundwater in the Faro area to ensure the uranium bomb material has not leached into the water table.

In 2012, a NC Historical Marker was erected in the town of Eureka, three miles northwest of the Faro crash site. The Historical Marker bears the title, “Nuclear Mishap”. It includes mention of the three crewman lost: Sargent Francis Roger Barnish (age 35), Major Eugene Holcombe Richards (age 42), and Major Eugene Shelton (age 41).

Ed. Note: With thanks to Joel Dobson for his assistance on this article and sequence of events.



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Fish Free July 4th

By Jodie B. Owen, jodie.owen@ncwildlife.org

Anglers — young or old, novice or experienced, North Carolina residents or non-residents — are invited to fish for free on July 4. No fishing license required.

Fishing for a fun and inexpensive way to celebrate Independence Day? The NC Wildlife Resources Commission invites anglers and would-be anglers of all ages to go fishing — for free.

On July 4th from 12:01am until 11:59pm, everyone in NC — resident and non-residents alike — can fish in any public body of water, including coastal waters, without purchasing a fishing license or additional trout fishing privilege.

Although no fishing license is required, all other fishing regulations, such as size and creel limits and lure restrictions, still apply.

To give anglers a better chance of catching fish, the Commission stocks a variety of fish in waters across the state — including trout and channel catfish. The agency also provides access to fishing sites across the state, including public fishing areas and boating access areas. The interactive fishing and boating maps on the Commission’s website list more than 500 fishing and boating areas, many of which are free, that are open to the public.

Authorized by the NC General Assembly and started in 1994, NC’s annual Free Fishing Day is always July 4th.

On all other days of the year, a fishing license is not required for anglers 15 years and younger, but anyone age 16 and older must have a fishing license to fish in any public water in NC, including coastal waters.

Shades of Grey

*Some situations are viewed in black and white; right and wrong. Yet, many people think situations also have a **grey area** where solutions are not so easily discerned. This is not just about the choices people make, but the thought process they go through to arrive at their decisions.*

Submitted for Your Discussion & Consideration

You’re wandering through the Mall, enjoying the air conditioning on a hot day. Suddenly, you see your brother-in-law walking, holding hands with a woman you don’t know.

Do you think that you would confront him right there in the Mall? How do you think you would approach your sister? Could you live with yourself if you said nothing?



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Things to Do in NC
When You’re Bored

* Nashville *

6/24 Kids’ Storytime
(June 24 @ 10:30am)
Join each Monday for 30-minute story time. For ages 2-5. Give children a good start at being readers. At Cooley Library, 114 W Church St., Nashville

6/29 Dan Smith Kick-Drums Kids Show (June 29 @ 4pm)
Free event! Performance by Daniel Justin Smith. At Nash Arts Center, 100 E Washington Street, Nashville
More info at [nasharts.org](#).

* Rocky Mount *

6/21 Lawn Chair Theatre
(Jun 21 @ 7pm; film sundown)
Free family movie night. Kids free activities before movie. Food & drink vendors. Bring blanket or lawn chairs. *The Rise of the Guardians* (June 21st). At Imperial Centre, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mt

6/21 Free Compost
6/28 (June 21 & 28 @ 7:30am-4pm)
Free compost available to the public. At the city’s compost site, 1244 Arrow Road, Rocky Mount

6/22 Customer Appreciation Day (June 22 @ 10am-4pm)
Free food, drinks, snow cones, cotton candy, live music & games! Drawing for Tactical .22 rifle & ladies Flora watch. *Must come Sat. to be eligible, but do not have to be present to win.* All welcome! Some free Carolina Jewelry Pawn & Gun stickers or shirts. At Carolina Jewelry Pawn & Gun, 2522 Sunset Ave, Rocky Mt

6/27 Summer Music Series (June 27 & July 11 @ 6-8:30pm)
Downtown Live’s free concert with *The Tams* June 27th. Doors open 5pm. No coolers. Bring blanket or lawn chair. *Jim Quick & Coastline* July 11th. On the lawn at Imperial Centre, 270 Gay St, Rocky Mount

7/03 Independence Celebration (July 3 @ 6-9:30pm)
Free event with fireworks & much more. Food & activities galore. At Rocky Mt Athletic Stadium, 1400 N Church Street, Rocky Mt
Contact Debbie at 252.972.1151.

* Wilson *

6/24 Wilson Tob’s Baseball
6/27 (Jun. 24, 27-28 & 30, Jul. 2, 4-5)
6/28
6/30
7/02
7/04
7/05
Come for the ball game, enjoy fun time with family & friends! Low ticket fees. At Fleming Stadium, 300 Stadium Street SW, Wilson
Online at [www.wilsonsobs.com](#).

6/26 Downtown Alive!
7/10 (June 26 & July 10 @ 5:30pm)
Free summer concerts return to Wilson. Spend the evening listening to live music & relaxing with the family. At Grassy lot, 210 S Tarboro St., Wilson In case of inclement weather, the party moves inside to The Wilsonian Special Events Center, 115 Barnes Street, Wilson

6/27 Dig Out From Clutter (June 27 @ 7-9pm)
By professional organizer Kay Williams. Learn how-to of putting clutter of everyday life in order. *Use Jackson Street entrance.* In Assembly Rm, Wilson Cty Public Library, 249 Nash Street NE, Wilson

7/11 Fifty Weeks of Green and Wildly Affordable Organic (July 11 @ 6:30-9pm)
Author Linda Watson discusses her books. *Use Jackson Street entrance.* In Assembly Rm, Wilson Cty Public Library, 249 Nash Street NE, Wilson

* Tarboro *

6/28 The Ambassadors Quartet (June 28 @ 6:30pm)
Live Music event. At Gospel Fellowship Ministries, 1010 Fountain Street, Tarboro, NC

6/29 Community Appreciation Day (June 29 @ 12-6pm)
Free BBQ plate, raffle Tablet giveaway, more. At Connection Mobile, 207 E Hope Lodge St, Tarboro
For info, call 252.563.5988.

7/08 Junior Sheriff’s Academy (July -19 8-19 @ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri)
Youth between 13-18. Learn about law enforcement. Ride along with a deputy. \$30 registration fee. By Edgecombe County Sheriff’s Office. Call for info 252.641.7915.

* Elsewhere *

6/22 Bunn Berry Social
(June 22 @ 11am-3pm)
Cornhole tournament, hot dogs & more. At Vollmer Farm, 671 NC 98 Hwy East, Bunn
Info, call 919.426.5806.

6/25 Eastern NC Hay Day (June 25 @ 9:30am-2pm)
At the Tar River Ranch-Pitt County, 3110 Old River Road, Greenville

6/26 Set The Woman Free (June -28 26-28 @ 7:30pm)
Conference. At Salvation & Praise Full Gospel Church, 9243 Marlboro Road, Farmville

6/30 From Sea to Shining Sea - A Tribute to our Military (June 30 @ 11am-12pm)
Come by for this tribute performance. At Knightdale Church of God, 4272 Old Faison Rd, Knightdale

7/03 July 3rd Fireworks Spectacular (July 3 @ 7pm)
Free fireworks spectacular! Bring your chairs, blankets, drinks & snacks. No glass containers, coolers, or alcohol. Music begins at 7pm. Fireworks show starts around 9:30pm. Vendors may be present. At Morrisville Community Park Fields, Morrisville (near RTP)
For weather updates, 919.463.6215.

7/04 Rolesville 4th of July (July 4 @ 5pm; fireworks dusk)
Rolesville’s annual Independence Day event. Bring lawn chairs & a little spending money. Alcohol-free, family-friendly. Music, hot dogs, cotton candy, pizza, funnel cakes, kids inflatables & more. On the ball fields at the Rolesville Community Park, Redford Place, Rolesville

7/04 Art-in-the-Park & Games-in-the-Park (July 4 @ 11am-1pm)
Children of all ages can create colorful arts & crafts projects & join games and activities. All of the Art & Games in the Park festivities are free and open to the public. In Holding Park, 133 W Owen Ave., Wake Forest
[www.wakeforestnc.gov/july4.aspx](#)

7/04 The ‘Works! (July 4 @ noon- 11pm)
Downtown Raleigh hosts City’s 4th of July fireworks extravaganza. Free. Live music, beer/wine tent, kids’ rides & games, Circus Maximus, performers, eating contests, food & art vendors. Picnic on Fayetteville Street! Fireworks starting around 9:30pm. At Fayetteville Street & the Red Hat Amphitheater, Raleigh

7/04 Castalia’s July 4th Celebration (July 4 @ 10am-10pm)
Food, handmade crafts, parade, stage show, antique and custom car show and fireworks complete the day. In Downtown Castalia
More at [www.castaliajuly4th.com](#).

7/04 Greenville’s Fourth of July (July 4 @ 1am-9pm)
Bring the entire family as you celebrate the 4th with carnival rides, arts and crafts, music, vendors, food, and a fantastic display of fireworks. At the Town Common, Greenville
Info at [www.visitgreenvillenc.com](#).

7/04 Belhaven’s 4th of July (July 4 @ 11am-10pm)
Free. Annual Independence Day Celebration since the early 1900s. Family day of festivities highlighted by a mile-long parade & fireworks display over the Pungo River. On Water Street, Belhaven
Contact Belhaven Chamber of Commerce at 252.943.3770.

7/04 Independence Day Pancake Breakfast (July 4 @ 8-10am)
Pancakes, sausage & juice plus local jazz band live. Held by Morrisville Fire Department. Pre-sale tickets: youth (12 & Under) \$1, adult \$3. Day-of tickets if available: youth \$3, adult \$5. At Fire Station 1, 260 Town Hall Drive, Morrisville

Misc Notices

Call for Volunteers

4-H is looking for volunteers youth component of the NC Cooperative Extension Service. For more info call 252-641-7827 or log on to [www.edgecombe.ces.ncsu.edu](#).

Animal Spay/Neuter Program

The Town of Tarboro is offering assistance for the spaying/neutering of dogs and cats for the purpose of reducing the population of unwanted animals. This program is administered by the Public Works Department located at 506 Dowd Street, Tarboro. Please contact that office for required form or more information 252.641.4234. This program is only for low-income families and residents of Tarboro.

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The above “Things To Do...” listings are free, at publisher’s discretion, and as space allows. Up to 5 lines of description may be included with an event. Priority is given to free, public events. Sponsor names may not be included. Event organizers may purchase regular advertising spaces to provide more details for upcoming events.

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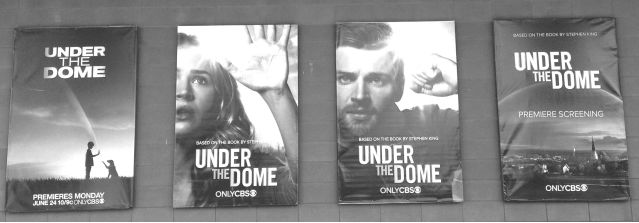
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TV Review of the Issue

By Frank and Kay Whatley

Yes, TV review. As we wrote in March, the NC Film Industry is growing. Part of that growth brought the CBS *Under The Dome* TV series to Wilmington. June 20th a special red carpet premiere gathered the actors, author Stephen King, the producers and crew for a special showing of *Under The Dome* at Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.



This premiere event began with red carpet entry of the *Under The Dome* actors. Every few minutes, another actor was brought out, to the delight of those filming and taking photos. Each actor patiently spoke with the press as they rotated from reporter to reporter like partners in a square dance.

Meanwhile, lucky folks with tickets for the screening were led into the balcony and Thalian Hall screening room.



For close to an hour Mike Vogel, Rachelle Lefevre, Nicholas Strong, Colin Ford, Natalie Martinez, Dean Norris, Jolene Purdy, Britt Robertson, and Aisha Hinds met the press. Then, the man himself — Stephen King — appeared for interviews and photos.

Soon after, Kristen (one of those managing the event) came through the room to sweep some of us press into the screening room. Our seats were great, and just behind the cast and crew.

Before the screening, local officials presented the Key to the city to King, and read a proclamation making June 24th “Dome Day”.

For those who have read the book *Under The Dome*, know that things are going to be a bit different in the CBS television series.



For those who have not read the book, you get to watch the story unfold.

The audience at Thalian Hall viewed the complete first episode. Thirteen episodes are planned for the TV series. Throughout the showing, gasps and laughs escaped from the captivated audience.



Episode One introduced the series’ main characters, then with incredible special effects dropped the invisible dome over the town. This small town — not unlike many across our state — finds itself trapped beneath the dome without warning. Immediately, the townspeople and visiting strangers find themselves in a situation both horrifying and confusing. As an audience, we get to sit back from the safety of our chairs and watch the people bind together or fall apart.

After the film, the actors joined Stephen King and the producers on-stage. The audience glimpsed into the mind of Stephen King, as the group participated in a question and answer session. The cast in-person seemed to have a great rapport. They joked around and seemed very comfortable together as they answered questions. Some of this camaraderie came through on-screen and should make for a great series as the characters develop. Stephen King summed it up when he closed by saying, “This is the best, most talented, committed cast I’ve ever worked with.”

From this first look, the CBS series *Under The Dome* has us hooked. We thought it had good cast performances, a suspenseful plot, and outstanding special effects. I mean, really outstanding for being an invisible nothing! We hope you’ll like this new series, whether you are a fan of Stephen King, of producers Brian K. Vaughan (*Lost*) and Neal Baer (*ER*), or you are just looking for something new.

301 Endless Yard Sale Draws Crowds to Johnston County

Contributed by Annette Dorman, Nettcycle

The weekend of June 14th and June 15th brought the first ever 301 Endless Yard Sale along Hwy 301 from Kenly to Benson in Johnston County; a total of 30 miles. What an event it was! It was fun for vendors and shoppers alike.

Sellers Enjoy the Day

I was a vendor. The temperature was very warm but a nice breeze continued during the two days. The shoppers were happy, visiting the variety of vendors. There was something for everyone. New stuff, old stuff and future antiques. Some people that visited my booth went the entire 30 miles. I saw them in the morning and they came back in the afternoon returning home.

People that lived along the 301 corridor held yard sales in their own yards, Businesses along the route rented spaces to vendors. A big thank you to Tim and Debbie Evans from Evans Tire in Smithfield, who rented me a space for the two days. What an amazing time I had! My customers were the best. The customers came in droves. I never slowed down in the two days. It was a bit overwhelming on Friday as I was alone until my friend, Lisa Fine, could get there at 4pm. I was selling everything. All my unfinished projects, projects I could never start and new projects were sold. Did I tell you that I am the Queen of Unfinished Projects?

I came home Friday hot and tired, but happy; most of what I’d taken to the sale had sold, and I wanted to get more onto my trailer for the second day. I went into my snaky storage barn in the dark carrying a little flashlight and a big stick for critters. I found five things that I could put into my little garden cart to roll back to the house. Out of those five things



Photo: Donna Bailey-Taylor, Johnston Cty Visitors Bureau

I brought from my snaky storage barn to the sale on Saturday. I sold three.

I met some fun people over the two days. One woman bought a 1960’s copper colored metal cake carrier from me and then proceeded to tell me about the pink and yellow Kool-Aid Cake she was going to make and put on the cake plate. I asked her to bring me a slice.

The organizers of the 301 Endless Yard Sale spoke with vendors during the

two-day event to get our feedback. My feedback was 200% positive. The organizers will be sending out surveys to vendors to get future ideas. There is a chance a similar event may happen in the fall. I vote fall and spring, maybe holding it in May next year.

Behind the Scenes

The 301 Endless Yard Sale was patterned after the 127 Longest Sale. That sale goes from Michigan to Alabama — a total of 690 miles — each August.

Donna Bailey-Taylor is with the Johnston County Visitors Bureau. She and a team spearheaded the 301 Endless Yard Sale. Towns along the route signed up and local businesses did all the organizing at each stop. Homeowners set up too. It was an effort spread across many hands and they pulled it together beautifully.

Not only did sellers come, but buyers too. And they did what the Johnston County Visitors Bureau had hoped: they came for the yard sales and patronized local antique stores, town shops, and area restaurants. Visitors spent the day at the event, and they helped the local economy mile after mile!

Ms. Bailey-Taylor said that the two-day event was so successful that different vendors came each day, and vendors who came for both ran out on Friday and had to restock!

As to a future event, Bailey-Taylor said, “Right now, there is a consensus by the people involved that we will hold the yard sale again next year.” She and the team will be talking with more towns and deciding just how big this event might be through NC.

Surprisingly, this big turnout came from only four months of planning. In March, the visitor’s bureau wrote the first press release to announce the event and created the website. Each month, they met with contacts from the participating towns.

A Day of Commerce

Unlike holding a festival where there are up-front costs, the towns gave effort without direct cost. The visitor’s bureau handled most marketing. The individual merchants and landowners set up the spaces and incurred any related costs. Vendors and homeowners brought their own supplies. The health department involvement was minimized by each town limiting food vendors. The resulting commerce in the community benefitted all sellers and businesses open during the sale.

If you missed the 301 Endless Yard Sale this time, make sure you go next time. You will not be disappointed. And next time, there may be more towns to visit along the way.



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The Strange-ness

Local Bigfoot Sightings

While the *Finding Bigfoot* show on Animal Planet focused on Bigfoot sightings in Western NC, did you know that Eastern NC residents have seen bigfoot too? Bigfoot reports indicate the creature also walks the Eastern NC woods.

In Johnston County, only one sighting has ever been reported. Two witness saw a bear-like figure with long arms in July 2002. Greene County residents reported hearing, not seeing, a strange animal.

The longest sighting occurred November 1989 in Bertie County. Two men observed a tall, ape-like creature covered with matted dark hair for almost 10 minutes! Once it noticed them, it screamed toward the sky and ran away.

Sure, that was years ago... Is that what you’re thinking. Well, Nash County had sightings “way back when” — in Rocky Mount, 1979 and 1999. However, Nash County *also* had a sighting six months ago! Just after Christmas near Castalia a walking bigfoot was spotted,

Sightings were near heavily wooded areas frequented by deer. To see the reports directly, visit www.bfro.net. And if you see a large hairy man-like creature, you can add your report to that site.



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The Grey Area™

The Backside



Little Bits

Chuckle of the Issue

A man asked a passerby: “What’s the quickest way to Washington?”

“Are you walking or driving?”

“Driving.”

“That’s the quickest way.”

Quote of the Issue

“First make sure you’re right, then go ahead.”

Davy Crockett

Translation of the Issue

English — “doctor”

German — arzt	Spanish — doctor
Italian — medico	Irish — dochtúir
Latin — medicus	Welsh — meddyg
Korean — 의사 (uisa)	Russian — врач (vrach)

Translations for these words in many more languages may be found in online (translate.google.com, etc.).

Word of the Issue

philtrum

Definition: A vertical groove starting below the nose and ending above the upper lip.

Example:“Philtrum length can vary from person to person.”

Cryptogram of the Issue

Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote within the puzzle.

Hint: J = E.

Y L D Q Y V F Z H V N M

M Y Q Q Y T S N T A N V F X H F

C J H S S N T X H Z N F F X N V

W S H T J F C J H S S

Z D J H F X J F X J V H Q J

H N D C J H S S M X J D N V X

Y L D M X N S O D J T V

K L F L D J H T O C J H D J

H S S Q Y D F H S

U Y X T K A J T T J O B

Answer to the previous issue’s cryptogram:

*How much wood would
a woodchuck chuck if
a woodchuck could
chuck wood?*

News from The Grey Area

It is Summer! School’s out, and Eastern NC has much to offer — including many July 4th events! These are on Page 2.

The next issue comes out for July 5th. If you have an event, story or community happening you’d like us to cover, please call 919.623.9392 or email kayw@greyareanews.com.

To advertise, call 919.637.6973.

Issues of *The Grey Area* come out every other Friday. Advertisers may place their ad in one Edition or both, covering eight cities.



Last Days to Enter July 4th Essay Contest

The Grey Area newspaper is holding an Essay Contest for local writers! If you live or go to school in Eastern NC, you are invited to enter. The essay topic is “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”. Essays may refer to the writer’s view of the USA in the present, or as experienced across a lifetime.



Length is 300 to 750 words. Please limit to one submission per writer. Spell check and edit. Since the winning essays will be published in *The Grey Area* newspaper, spelling and grammar are important.

Submit your essay to sales@greyareanews.com, or mail to The Grey Area newspaper, 70 Harrison Street, Zebulon NC 27597. Mailed essays will not be returned; please keep a copy. Essays should be submitted to arrive by June 22nd (Saturday). Judges will review essays and winning entrants will be notified by the end of June. Winning essays will be published in the issue distributed for the week of July 4th.

In addition to having their essays published, the winning three essay writers receive cash prizes. First place essay wins \$50, Second and Third place winners receive \$25.



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Ads, Services & Directory

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