

# Pinehurst annexes Five Points, Fayetteville eyes Rockfish

By ANDY ZOFFAGIN  
Staff intern

Pinehurst annexed Five Points and the horse park in Hoke County this week, setting off a round of land grabs that may put Rockfish and Wayside in Fayetteville, Arabia in Laurinburg, and most bizarre, Ashley Heights in Fort Bragg.

It all started several years ago when the horse park relocated to Hoke County from Moore County. Legislators, who saw the park as a tourism draw, wanted it to retain its fashionable Pinehurst address.

"We couldn't move the park back to Pinehurst, so we moved Pinehurst to the park," said Verity Knot, a staffer in Raleigh who wrote the legislation.

"To keep this from being spot annexation, we actually had to annex Highway 211 and connecting roads all the way from Pinehurst," she said.

Seeing Pinehurst's apparent success, Fayetteville is eyeing Rockfish. Wayside and a narrow corridor that follows US401 to the outskirts of Raeford and around to the other side of town.

Since the horse park annexation, reaction has been steady.

"Do you realize if you have an auto accident on 211 the Pinehurst police

will have to investigate it?" said Lyon Thyme, a spokesman for the Fire and Safety Association of the Carolinas. "Unless, of course, your car ends up off the road past the right of way. Then it would be investigated by the highway patrol. This could be a nightmare," he said.

Aprille Furste, a planner for the Hoke School System, said if Fayetteville annexes the corridor as planned all sorts of "challenges" will occur.

"For example, West Hoke Middle will have to be renamed East Hoke Middle because it will be the easternmost middle school. East Hoke Middle

will be in Cumberland County, and they're planning to call it simply 'West Middle.'"

"For a similar reason," she said, "with Laurinburg's plans - South Hoke will become North Hoke and West Hoke Elementary will become East Hoke Elementary. 'I still don't know what

they're going to call Rockfish-Hoke," she said.

Fort Bragg, meanwhile, sees the developments as a chance to expand toward Camp Mackall and may start with a move to annex Ashley Heights.

Meanwhile, signs have gone up at Five Points proclaiming it's now

Pinehurst. "We'd like to get a Mercedes dealership here now, and maybe a Fresh Market," said Knot. "It will ensure the Pinehurst image is maintained. 'We'll also be trying to attract a store to sell white shoes and plaid pants.'"



The signs are up in what used to be Five Points, but is now in Pinehurst.



This well-known sign marking the intersection of five roads bears a new name.

## Other stuff (Continued from page 1A)

phone call. "Look, Al, thanks, but I'm not interested."

"I don't CARE if you're not interested!" he said, his tone turning sharp.

Taken aback at this new approach, I said, "Excuse me?"

"Man, I don't CARE if you're not interested!"

"Good, because I'm not."

"Then PLEASE hang up."

"Okay, click."

I spent Saturday morning cooking bacon outside. That and yard work were my two assignments as about 30 women held a baby shower for Wendy Fields at the house.

(Yes, I noticed that both chores were intended to keep me outside, and for that, I'm eternally grateful.)

Anyway, the bacon cooking turned into a science experiment of sorts with multiple hypotheses and at least a couple of surprising outcomes.

My first hypothesis was that if I cooked the bacon to my liking, it would be satisfactory to at least a few other people. This proved incorrect. Instead, I found that if you cook the bacon gently, over a medium fire, a female will come out of the house and accuse you of trying to serve raw pig and give everyone trichinosis. If you turn up the fire a bit or cook the bacon a tad longer, a female will come out of the house and accuse you of serving charcoal.

Next, I hypothesized that if those dabbed live oak leaves that keep falling until sometime in April managed to blow into the bacon, no one would notice. Especially if they were cooked well-done. This one proved correct.

Hypothesis number three was that bacon grease heated outdoors on a camp stove hurts just as much as if heated indoors. Again, correct.

Finally, I hypothesized - that's too strong a word - assumed bacon is bacon. Nothing could be farther from the truth. After cooking bacon from nine different manufacturers there was a single standout - and I will be happy to share this information by email - that was mostly meat, nicely flavored and colored to hide live oak leaves.

While we're on the subject of science, it should be obvious by now that I think like a scientist. When questions arise, they must be answered,

even if you're on the way to work. Such was the case last week as I drove to work along Main Street and closed in on a city garbage truck. It came to a stop so I slowed down and absent-mindedly stopped a few car lengths behind it. As a part of my brain watched the guys expertly performing their work, and another part began to search for alternate route, yet a third noticed the sign painted in large letters across the back of the truck: "Stay back 500 feet."

you'll walk across Elwood Avenue, clear across the parking lot, across Campus Avenue, almost across another parking lot and almost to Donaldson Avenue - nearly two complete blocks - to reach 500 feet.

At that distance you can barely see a garbage truck, let alone read the sign that says to stay back that far. So if you see me stopped in the middle of Main Street for no apparent reason, it's not car trouble. Very likely, two blocks away, there is a garbage truck. And I'm just doing my civic duty.

Okay, I don't have a life. This next photo of my truck will prove it:



If you can read this, you're too close.

After a few seconds the first part of the brain began ignoring the guys, and the second joined the third and I began to realize: 500 feet - that's a long way!

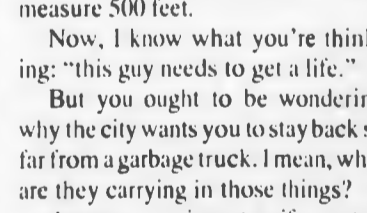
Is this really how far they expect traffic to stay from a garbage truck? I tried to picture a hundred feet so I could multiply it by five. Twenty 25-foot extension cords. Almost one-tenth of a mile. Exactly how far is 500 feet?

This question had to be answered. So I fetched my GPS receiver, which measures distance by triangulating satellite signals and is accurate to within 20 feet or so, and set out to measure 500 feet.

Now, I know what you're thinking: "this guy needs to get a life."

But you ought to be wondering why the city wants you to stay back so far from a garbage truck. I mean, what are they carrying in those things?

Anyway, you ingrates, if you start walking from the entrance of the News-Journal office and head north,



Sorry the picture is kinda shaky; it was an exciting moment.

rage for his limousines. The erosion of property rights ought to concern all of us because, as our founding fathers knew, our right to just about everything else is dependent on our right to our person, our labor and what we produce. It's easy to get outraged when government favors snail darters and endangered butterflies over jobs and homeowners. It's easy to jump on the property rights bandwagon when cities seize old ladies' houses to make room for the new Nissan plant. But we need to be consistent. We can't say that it's wrong for the EPA to tell a farmer what he can and can't do with his land, but that it's OK for the same agency to force restaurants to go smoke free. We can't say it's wrong for the Department of Labor to tell a business owner he must comply with needlessly expensive OSHA regulations, but it's okay for the same agency to tell him he must hire needlessly expensive domestic labor when cheaper foreign labor is available.

There's either an absolute right to personal property or there isn't. If Americans value any of their freedom, they ought to guard this one with extra vigilance, even in times when it's personally inconvenient to do so.

I hope the above makes you think very hard about how much more property rights you are willing to give up. I believe United States citizens cannot afford to give up any more of their property rights and must join together to recover many property rights we have lost for no good logical reasons. I do not wish to give up any more and will work to recover most of what I have lost.

Elected government people with "Property Rights" as their priority is the only way to leave for future generations the property rights they deserve.

Sincerely Yours,

Harold Brock

## Brock letter (Continued from page 1A)

that business's success or failure save for the fact that if the business fails, they will have to find another business to conduct business with. So why should they insist with the help of government, that the business owners who risk everything serve them on their terms?

Somewhere between today and the time of Madison, Americans have lost sight of the importance of Property Rights - the ownership a man has of his body, his hands, and the product of his labor. As Madison wrote above, it is the right from which all other rights and freedoms are derived. Once a government and its people stop respecting and enforcing a man's right to do what he pleases with what he owns and creates, all the other rights and freedoms we cherish fall into peril!

The smoking ban debate is merely symptomatic of a larger problem, of course. Whether it's the controversy over job outsourcing or draconian environmental regulations - disrespect

for private property continues across all spheres of the public policy debate. In fact, as income tax day approaches, we are reminded of the most egregious trampling of property rights; the passage of the 16th amendment, which gave government permission to siphon its take of the product of American labor.

A more recent development in the assault on property rights is the abuse of eminent domain, the process by which government can seize land for the "public good." The problem is that governments - local, state, and national - have an overly broad interpretation of what makes a "public good." Often, it means taking land from ordinary people for a pittance, then handing it over to corporations and developers who can offer the state or city more tax revenue. In New Jersey, to cite one example: Atlantic City officials interpreted "public good" to mean that the city could seize the home of an elderly woman so Donald Trump could build a ga-

rage for his limousines.

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## Hoke to take part in tech assistance

By SCOTT JORDAN  
Hoke County Information Technology

Hoke County has been invited to participate in a technology-related project called the Local E-Government Utilization Project (LEG-UP), sponsored by the state's e-NC Authority.

LEG-UP is an intensive, hands-on effort by e-NC and partner organizations - the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the North Carolina Rural Center, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the UNC Center for Public Television - to bring effective Internet technology to rural North Carolina.

Local governments participating in the project receive resources over a set period of time, including training on making information technology (IT) decisions, website development and operations, and the selection and

operation of a website application or service. The project will cover the county's travel and material costs for county representatives to attend the training. LEG-UP will also cover the cost of establishing an interactive website for the county and will pay for the cost of one computer and related equipment.

The e-NC Authority (originally named the Rural Internet Access Authority) was created by state statute in the year 2000 as an organized effort to "ensure that the citizens of North Carolina keep pace with the ever faster technology changes ... in order to

assure the economic competitiveness of North Carolina with special focus on rural and urban distressed areas."

Board of Commissioners Chairman Robert Wright said, "The County recognizes that technology infrastructure is essential for better service to the citizens and continued economic development in the community. The County wants to provide that service to the citizens and encourage the economic prosperity of both existing and prospective businesses in the community."

"We look forward," Wright added, "to a prosperous future for all the citizens of Hoke County."

Dr. Mary Kemp Thomas attended the annual meeting of the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature in Raleigh on March 16 and 17.

The Senior legislature, established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1993, provides information and education to senior adults on matters being considered by the General Assembly and makes recommendations to the General Assembly on the legislative needs of older North Carolinians. Thomas is the delegate/alternate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature from Hoke County.

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature has identified five priority issues for action by the General Assembly in the upcoming short legislative session. Restoring the \$1 million cut in 2003 from the Home and Community Care Block Grant which funds in-home and community based services to help impaired older adults stay in the homes is a top priority of the Senior Legislature.

With large waiting lists for these services across the state, restoring this funding cut is critical, they say.

Maintaining support for the Medicaid Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults is another priority. This program provides home and community care services as a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature is also requesting that the General Assembly pass legislation to make the state tax credit for long-term care insurance permanent as well as enact a law which would mandate that national criminal background checks for employees of long term care facilities are completed. In addition, they are encouraging the General Assembly to take action to restore funding which was cut for the development and operation of senior centers in 2002.

Dr. Thomas may be contacted at 644 Dockery Road; or call her at 875-3848.

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