

## Black bear wanders through Southern Pines

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That large black bear which spent five hours peering at spectators from his leafy perch in a Southern Pines Tree, finally climbed down and hasn't been seen since. Residents who live on the 400 Block of North Ashe Street say the bear wandered around the neighborhood before ending up in the tree. The three-hundred pound animal appeared more curious than frightened, which is more than you could say for some of the neighbors. Pam Francis, who has owned her Ashe Street Home since 1993, had never seen anything like it. "I avoid camping," she told reporters, "Because I'm scared of bears and then walks down the street. It freaked me out." At dusk, the bear abandoned his perch, took a drink of water from some left at the base of the tree and simply wandered off.