

Reign supreme

➔ High Point Christian Academy's Lady Cougars finish the season atop the the N&R girls' basketball rankings **SPORTS, B1**



NEWS & RECORD

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City earns accolades for hosting sports events

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

As the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments are set for tipoff this week, Greensboro has gained its own national sports ranking.

Sports Business Journal has selected Greensboro as the nation's No. 2 city for attracting and hosting sporting events that's not the home of a major professional team in the top-five leagues —

Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, National Basketball Association, National Football League and National Hockey League.

Fort Worth, Texas, was ahead of Greensboro, with Birmingham, Ala., Louisville, Ky., and Palm Beach County, Fla., rounding out the rest of the top five.

Part of the criteria was cities having their own convention space, sports venues and dedi-

icated sports commission/Convention and Visitors Bureau staff as standalone markets.

"This recognition underscores our city's unparalleled dedication to hosting world-class events and showcases our ability to thrive in the sports industry," said Henri Fourrier, president and chief executive of Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The ranking was part of the publication's second annual Best

Sports Business Cities, which is focused on the cities "that have been the most successful at attracting and hosting sporting events." In the overall ranking, Orlando, Fla., is tops, followed by Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Indianapolis in the top five.

"The comprehensive methodology involved weighing each city's contributions, from new venue constructions to the diverse array of hosted events,"

said Abe Madkour, publisher and executive editor at SBJ. "The result of this year's list is not just a ranking, but a testament to the dedication, competition and dynamism within the sports travel and tourism sector. This list is a reflection of the cities that have truly embraced and excelled in the people-based industry of hosting remarkable sporting events."

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WOODY MARSHALL, NEWS & RECORD

Margaret Gertrude Beal holds letters from Karen Smith, her childhood pen pal from New Zealand, at her home in Greensboro on Feb. 29. The two, who lost touch for decades, met face-to-face for the first time when Gertrude visited New Zealand in January.

Pen pals finally meet — 58 years later

'We found so much in common as old ladies that it really had a touch of the divine about it'

NANCY MCLAUGHLIN
Staff Reporter

GREENSBORO — In 1966, they were on opposite sides of the globe but would soon share a curiosity through pen and paper about men landing on the moon, the movie "To Sir, with Love," music from the Monkees and the Beatles, and everything Twiggy, that cultural icon.

It would take 58 years for the two pen pals connected by Friends (Quaker) schools in Greensboro and New Zealand

to meet. It would take Margaret Gertrude Beal joining a tour to New Zealand to finally embrace Karen Smith, the bearer of secrets and laugh-out-loud thoughts.

The two were pen pals because of one of Gertrude's teachers, who had a connection to Karen's Quaker boarding school in Wanganui, and thought it would be a great idea for the students to write to each other. And Karen

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Karen Smith (left) and Gertrude Beal became pen pals in the 1960s when students from an American Friends school in Greensboro were matched with pen pals from a Friends school in New Zealand.

COURTESY OF MARGARET GERTRUDE BEAL

Cone, A&T confirm \$32M project

'Significant economic and medical milestone' for east Greensboro

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

Cone Health and the N.C. A&T Real Estate Foundation confirmed Monday their partnership on a \$32 million mixed-use development in east Greensboro branded as The Re-surgent.

The development, which will begin its first phase in late April, is being focused on revitalizing the area around East Market Street near Benbow Road, across from N.C. A&T and close to U.S. 29. It features a 54,000-square-foot building.

The ownership stake will be 60% the N.C. A&T foundation and 40% Cone.

The groups said the project "marks a significant economic and medical milestone for the region."

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Nonprofit announces data breach

Center for Creative Leadership says it was targeted in August

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

The Center for Creative Leadership said Monday that a data breach in August may have caused the release of personal information, including Social Security numbers, medical and bank account numbers, that may affect employees, customers, grant participants and contractors.

The Greensboro nonprofit group is the latest in a series of Triad companies to have experienced a data breach.

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Trump's lawyers say he can't post a bond covering his \$454 million fraud judgment while he appeals.

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