

## Some GOP members balk at backing Trump

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Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp will back his fellow Republicans' presidential ticket in November. That does not mean he will cheerlead for former President Donald Trump or even endorse him by name.

"I'm going to support the nominee," Kemp told reporters after Trump won his state's primary on his way to clinching the GOP nomination.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, once a favorite potential presidential candidate for anti-Trump Republicans, officially endorsed the former president earlier this month. But he did so only after Trump won the Virginia primary on Super Tuesday. And Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, one of the nation's highest-ranking Black Republicans, still won't endorse him.

"Everybody has to make their own decision," she told reporters after Trump's victory. She then cited an Old Testament verse, Hosea 8:4, that reads in part, "They have set up kings, but not by me."

While Trump coasted to his third consecutive Republican nomination, his domination of the party isn't seamless. Some high-profile members of his party, particularly in swing states full of voters skeptical of Trump, are trying to keep their distance while preserving their own futures.

For figures like Kemp and Youngkin who could make their own presidential bids in four years, that means careful positioning intended to satisfy enough Trump backers without alienating voters repelled by the former president. For Trump, it means a rockier road to winning coalitions in battleground states he lost to Biden in 2020 and Kemp and Youngkin won since, proceeding to enact policies popular with the right.

## Pen pals

From A1

and Gertrude would continue writing to each other for four years and into high school.

Remarkable, considering their ages.

"It was a nice part of our growing-up years," Gertrude said.

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"I'll try and write regularly if I can. I am not good at writing letters."

Karen at 10

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Then came the letter in July 1969, when Karen wrote that her mother had died earlier that month. She would write a few more letters into the early 1970s. And then they stopped.

They would end up not writing to each other for 50 years.

Gertrude had also been busy with the Rainbow Girls leadership group and played clarinet at school. She would go on to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and UNCG. She later retired after 38 years as a researcher at Guilford College. And she authored the book "America's First Civil Rights Movement," about area Quakers involved in the Underground Railroad.

But she never forgot her friend.

In 2019, Gertrude was considering a trip to New Zealand and Australia with another friend. But she didn't want to plan a trip until she could locate Karen and plan to see her while there.

The intrepid researcher wrote to people she knew who had friends or family in New Zealand, a newspaper reporter, a genealogist and historian at a library, the local Friends Meetings and others in Karen's orbit.

She recounted how as a child she was a member of New Garden Friends Meeting and had a Sunday School teacher who had a connection to the New Zealand Friends School in Wanganui and had them write letters to children there.

"That is my sole purpose in trying to now find her after 50 years," she wrote in her letters.

She didn't know if Karen had been married or was even on social media.

Karen was creative and often



WOODY MARSHALL, NEWS & RECORD

Gertrude Beal has saved gifts that her New Zealand pen pal Karen Smith sent her decades ago.

adorned her letters with intricate drawings of fashionable women, which led Margaret to believe she could have gone into fashion illustrations. Sometimes she wrote poems.

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"I saw a little worm today,  
crawling on his belly,  
Perhaps he'd like to come inside  
And see what's on the telly."

Karen at 12

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Gertrude had learned a lot about the younger Karen from those early letters so she was able to offer great details, including where she had lived and that her mother's name was Jill A. Smith. She gleaned that detail because the mother once wrote a note on the back of a letter apologizing for putting it in the mail so late.

Gertrude was able to find the mother's death record as she had been dead for exactly 50 years — about the time the two lost touch. She also remembered from their letters that an aunt and uncle Karen mentioned at one time owned a coffee bar.

And she shared the names of the good friends that Karen had mentioned as well.

The reporter for the local newspaper was able to find a Karen Smith on Facebook using dates and schools she had attended and sent her the information.

Gertrude saw that the woman wasn't on Facebook often, but that she had a daughter named Heeni — who would be key to connecting the two. She messaged Heeni, explained who she was, and Karen responded right away.

She was still that smart and witty schoolgirl, but Karen also had suffered a brain injury years ago.

"So I am a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to technology," Karen, now 68, wrote in an email after 50 years. "I am so pleased you made contact and look forward to being in touch again."

The two had shared pictures during those early years. Gertrude still had everything.

A lot of catching up they put on paper only for each other's eyes in the ensuing correspondences through both mail and FaceTime.

And four years later, that trip to New Zealand was finally on.

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"I don't intend to come and disrupt your life but I would love to come and have lunch and a visit."

Gertrude at 69

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Gertrude left for New Zealand in January for two weeks.

The tour company's schedule would give Gertrude time over two days with her friend in Wellington, a few hours drive from Wanganui sometimes compared to San Francisco's coastal location and pun-

ishing hills.

They had decided to exchange Christmas gifts when they saw each other. Gertrude had made her a scrapbook including her first letter in February 1966 and a photo of her at age 10.

They visited the Te Papa Museum of the country's stories and culture, Karen joined Gertrude's group on a mini-tour of the city, and they later had dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

"We sat there for literally hours," Gertrude said.

Karen brought photos of her grandchildren.

"Eating and talking and feeling so pleased," Karen would say in an email to the News & Record. "I treasure that time so much."

No one could have known how perfectly matched they would be.

"We found so much in common as old ladies that it really had a touch of the divine about it," Karen said.

"We both love food so that is always part of our connection as adults," said Karen, who has worked in hospitality and whose brother is a chef. "We enjoy the same political views and are reading from the same hymn sheet on the important stuff I believe."

Karen, who has also been diagnosed with cancer, says that their reconnecting has been good for her soul.

The researcher in Gertrude is always tracking down information that could help her with treatment.

"Gertrude is a tower of strength for me as she has a lot of knowledge and understanding about multiple myeloma," Karen said. "No one else I know can really talk about it with me."

Cancer is a strange journey. Both my parents died of it."

More so, they love to talk about everything and nothing.

"Gertrude is a 'taonga,' the Maori word for treasure," Karen said.

And, after having used email and FaceTime in the years before the trip, Gertrude said, the trip had been like visiting with an old friend.

"Not someone you were meeting for the first time," Gertrude said.

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## Cone

From A1

Cone's Catch 5 in 5 initiative has identified the area as a place where people have 15 years shorter lifespans than people living in other areas.

Low incomes and a lack of easy access to health care are among the

reasons for the gap.

The groups said the project addresses both challenges in part by Cone opening urgent care and primary-care medical offices on the first two floors of the four-story building.

Cone projects serving about 25,000 people a year at those facilities. The other floors will house offices and the university's Center

of Excellence for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

"The ability to have easy access to high-quality health care close to where people live and work cannot be overstated," Cone chief executive Dr. Mary Jo Cagle said in a statement.

"This innovative partnership will make a profound difference in the life and health of this community."

Kimberly Cameron, executive director of the N.C. A&T Real Estate Foundation, said the groups believe the project "will serve as a catalyst for the redevelopment of East Market Street corridor, fostering a vibrant ecosystem for economic prosperity."

CJMW Architecture will serve as architect, while Samet Corp. as general contractor.

The project uses government New Market tax credits, which are authorized by the U.S. Treasury. The tax credits are designed to assist projects that are in qualified census tracts considered as distressed economically.

Additional financing has been provided by Wells Fargo, The Innovate Fund, Partners for Common Good and the city of Greensboro.

## Sports

From A1

The SBJ profile on Greensboro recognizes the diversity of sports events reminiscent of a best-kept-secret approach.

As expected, SBJ cited Greensboro being the host site for numerous Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA championship events, foremost in men's and women's basketball and in swimming.

"College sports, specifically the Atlantic Coast Conference, provided the bread and butter of Greensboro's sports tourism business for decades," according to the profile. "But, that's changing with the ACC headquarters'

move from Greensboro to Charlotte."

The publication said that "while college sports are still a big focus of the city's Sports Foundation — 15 ACC conference championships will be held in the city in the next five years — the city council last year stated that making the city the Southeast U.S. capital for youth and amateur sports was a top priority."

SBJ cited as example the establishment of the Greensboro Aquatic Center as a preferred event destination for USA Swimming. It holds more than 50 large swim events annually.

"It's a long overdue recognition for a city that punches well above its weight, especially considering

the absence of a Big Five team," said Keith Debbage, joint professor of Geography & Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality at UNC Greensboro.

"Credit to the city given that Greensboro Aquatics Center would not have existed without the bond referendum money that funded its development."

SBJ also cited the "flexible and large space" that the Greensboro Coliseum and the Special Events Center present, citing as an example the return June 21-24 of the World Ninja League, an obstacle course competition that drew nearly 5,000 participants worldwide in its last appearance here.

The profile also cited First National Bank Stadium, Truist Sta-

dium where N.C. A&T State plays football, and the Bryan Park Truist soccer complex.

"Rankings, such as this, can be important for Greensboro from a marketing standpoint, particularly when it comes to helping further the city's brand awareness and for generating future interest as a host city," said Roger Beahm, marketing professor at Wake Forest University.

Beahm said that "while it may seem counterintuitive, the fact that Greensboro doesn't have a Big Five team can actually be a benefit, as the city is not narrowly positioned around one or two particular sports."

"Greensboro can, and most likely will, use this latest ranking

to further enhance its image as a positive, neutral site across multiple sporting events.

For Greensboro, its successes at hosting national sporting events, as well as ACC and NCAA championships, also make it stand out in what is becoming an increasingly competitive marketplace for youth and amateur sports, Beahm said.

"Cities are constantly making claims about why they would be a better host for one particular event or another," Beahm said. "In this case, having been identified by a credible, independent source adds believability to any claims the city might make and adds to an already existing equity Greensboro has as a sports town."

## CCL

From A1

CCL said that for its employees, the information potentially accessed or acquired may have contained employees' or dependents' Social Security number, or employees' driver's license, bank account information (for direct deposit) or medical information related to workers compensation or family or medical leave.

CCL said it detected an incident on Aug. 26 "that limited the availability and functionality of our computer network."

The group said its investigation determined "that an unauthorized actor accessed and acquired certain files contained on our network."

"We determined that it is possible that some of the files accessed or acquired may have contained personally identifiable information related to our customers and participants, or our U.S.-based contractors, vendors, and employees."

"As we learned more through our investigation, on Nov. 7 we

began notifying by email customers that we determined may have been impacted," CCL said. "We have also continued our work to put in place additional safeguards to further protect and monitor our systems."

CCL said for more information, people are asked to 866-495-6513 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 pm weekdays. Clients with questions are asked to email to IncidentInquiries@ccl.org.

### Other data breaches

The parent company of Golden Corral said in early March that a data breach on Aug. 11-15 may have caused the release of personal information, including Social Security numbers and bank account numbers, of current and former employees, their dependents and beneficiaries.

The Raleigh-based restaurant chain said it "is unaware of any misuse of the information and is providing notice to potentially affected individuals out of an abundance of caution." The company did not say how many employees were affected and whether it was providing services

to those employees.

The chain conducted a review of the data breach that was completed Jan. 26. It began notifying affected individuals on Feb. 16.

The names and Social Security numbers of about 57,000 Bank of America customers, including 3,258 in North Carolina, may have been exposed in a data breach, according to bank notifications to the N.C. and Maine attorney general's offices.

The N.C. Attorney General's office was notified Feb. 2 by a customer-warning notice from Infosys McCamish Systems LLC of Atlanta. Yahoo Finance reported the cyberattack was done by a ransomware group known as LockBit. Infosys provides services for deferred compensation plans, including plans serviced by Bank of America in which customers based in Maine are participants.

VF Corp. reported Jan. 18 that hackers were able to steal the personal data of at least 35.5 million customers during a December cyberattack. The breach disrupted its distribution operations, including its ability to ful-

fill customer orders that played a role in lower quarterly sales.

HanesBrands Inc. disclosed in a May 31, 2022, regulatory filing that it began experiencing a ransomware attack on May 24, 2022.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software employed by hackers that can block access to a computer system until a ransom is paid. In recent years, the targets have shifted from individuals to governments, companies, nonprofits and health care systems.

HanesBrands said the ransomware attack affected its global supply-chain network and ability to fulfill customer orders for about three weeks.

HanesBrands reported receiving at least \$20.5 million in insurance compensation in 2023 for the 2022 ransomware attack that cost the manufacturer about \$100 million in global sales.

Atrium Health and Novant Health Inc. were notified in September of being victims of an apparent data breach by the cybercriminal group Russian Clop, according to media and healthcare industry reports. The

breach occurred May 28-29 over the Memorial Day holiday period and also involved software groups Progress Software and Microsoft subsidiary Nuance Communications, according to the companies.

Although the breach was discovered on May 31, Nuance said that around July 10 it confirmed that "certain individuals' personal information was affected by the incident. Impacted customers were notified."

Neither group has said how many North Carolina consumers have been affected.

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist (in June) and Novant (in August 2022) also reported separately data breaches that affected patient records.

In February 2023, Pepsi Bottling Ventures LLC, which has more than 550 employees in Winston-Salem, disclosed a data breach affecting the personal information of its 2,300 workforce in five states.

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