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CNBC RANKINGS



WALT UNKS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein makes an announcement that JetZero will build its manufacturing facility for its future Z4 passenger jet at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro during a ceremony on June 12 at PTI Airport in Greensboro.

BACK ON TOP

NC regains status as best state for business

RICHARD CRAVER
Winston-Salem Journal

North Carolina has regained its status as the nation’s Top State for Business, as determined by cable business channel CNBC for 2025.

The Tar Heel State has been ranked No. 1 for the third time in the past four years, along with being in the top two each of the past five years.

Although there is a cottage industry of state business climate rankings, CNBC is often cited by economists and site-selection officials as carrying the highest profile and the most influential.

In moving past Virginia, North Carolina overcame significant economic and natural disaster challenges.

“The Tar Heel State is still recovering

from the tragic loss of Hurricane Helene, a \$60 billion disaster that killed more than 100 people in North Carolina, worsened a statewide housing shortage, and created new challenges for the state’s already stressed infrastructure,” CNBC said.

Texas finished runner-up, followed by Florida, Virginia and Ohio. Three of the top five are red states, while North Carolina and Virginia are purple.

Amid an increasing number of cultural war legislative clashes, CNBC cited North Carolina’s ability to maintain a bipartisan state government approach to business recruitment and retention with new Democrat Gov. Josh Stein and new Republican House speaker Destin Hall.

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TEXAS FLOODING

Heavy rains pause search for victims

Evacuations ordered amid new threat of high waters in area

GABRIELA AOUN
Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas — More heavy rains in Texas on Sunday temporarily paused a weeklong search for victims of catastrophic flooding along the Guadalupe River and led to high-water rescues elsewhere as officials warned that the downpours could again cause waterways to surge.

It was the first time a new round of severe weather had paused the search since the July 4 floods, which killed at least 129 people. Authorities believe more than 160 people may still be missing in Kerr County alone, and 10 more in neighboring areas.

In Kerrville, where local officials have come under scrutiny over the failure to adequately warn residents about the rising water in the early-morning



ERIC GAY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rain falls over a makeshift memorial for flood victims Sunday along the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, Texas.

hours of July 4, authorities went door-to-door to some homes after midnight early Sunday to alert people that flooding was again possible. Authorities also pushed

phone alerts to those in the area.

During the pause in searches, Ingram Fire Department officials ordered crews to immediately evacuate the Guadalupe River

corridor in Kerr County, warning the potential for a flash flood is high.

Late Sunday afternoon, the Kerr County Sheriff’s Office an-

nounced that search teams in the western part of that county could resume their efforts. The Ingram Fire Department would resume their search-and-rescue efforts Monday morning, said agency spokesman Brian Lochte.

Latest flooding damages dozens of homes

Gov. Greg Abbott said on X that the state was making rescues in San Saba, Lampasas and Schleicher counties and that evacuations were taking place in a handful of others. Texas Task Force 1, a joint state and federal urban search and rescue team, had rescued dozens of people in the Lampasas area, Abbott said.

The latest round of flooding damaged about 100 homes and knocked down untold lengths of cattle fencing, said Ashley Johnson, CEO of the Hill Country Community Action Association, a San Saba-based nonprofit.

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