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The Augusta Chronicle

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 | AUGUSTACHRONICLE.COM

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Recovery effort on pause amid new flooding fears



Severe thunderstorms prompt emergency flash flood warnings on the banks of the Guadalupe River on July 13 in Kerrville, Texas. JIM VONDRUSKA/GETTY IMAGES

Weather advisory includes hard-hit Texas county

John Bacon, Rick Jervis and Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

Thunderstorms and the threat from rising waters in south central Texas on July 13 hampered the grim search for survivors and victims of the flooding

that swept through the region more than a week ago, killing over 100 people and leaving devastation in its wake.

All search and recovery operations along the Guadalupe River were suspended. Rescue personnel, equipment and vehicles “should be removed from the river area immediately,” Kerr County

officials said in social media posts on July 13. It warned that up to 2 inches of rain could fall in an hour.

The National Weather Service warned that isolated areas could possibly be overwhelmed with an additional 9-12 inches and lead to flash flooding. The flood watch was in effect until 7 p.m. local time.

See **RECOVERY**, Page 3A

Sewer plan may be economic windfall

Joe Hotchkiss
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

A \$25 million sewer project in south Augusta would open the floodgates for what economic development officials called “billions in private investment and thousands of jobs” for the Augusta area.

The 1,150 acres near the Burke County line, referred to as the McCombs Road Megasite, could be “primed for large-scale industrial projects,” according to a presentation prepared by the Augusta Economic Development Authority for the Augusta Commission.

Commissioners have been considering several beneficial local projects to fund through SPLOST 9, the newest iteration of the region’s special-purpose local option sales tax.

Mega sites typically are industrial parks exceeding 1,000 acres. Augusta

See **SEWER**, Page 2A

Energy forecasts in flux due to data centers

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

An agreement Georgia Power and state energy regulators reached this week acknowledges that the utility’s forecasts for future energy demand are uncertain at best and will need updating during the next several years.

However, much of Thursday’s final Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing on the mix of power-generating sources Georgia Power plans to rely upon focused on criticism the company isn’t doing enough to promote energy efficiency.

The commission will vote next week on Georgia Power’s 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which calls for a huge increase in electric generating capacity to accommodate the needs of “large-load” customers,

See **ENERGY**, Page 2A

Campaigns make first financial filings

Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

People who want to influence Georgia’s next elections have already poured millions of dollars into the 2026 governor’s race and other statewide campaigns.

Campaign finance reports filed by the midnight deadline Tuesday show Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and Attorney General

Chris Carr had each attracted about \$3 million from donors for their respective gubernatorial campaigns for the first half of the year.

However, Jones exploited a 2021 state law to bolster his campaign by another \$10 million. That boost from his own pocket to his WBJ Leadership Committee -- he is an executive in a family-owned oil company -- put him far ahead of Carr, not to mention the

Democrats in contention.

The Republican-sponsored law allows Georgia’s governor and lieutenant governor to raise unlimited sums in leadership committees. Only a handful of others, including leading lawmakers from both parties and the winners of the gubernatorial and lieutenant governor primaries, enjoy the same ad-

See **CAMPAIGNS**, Page 2A

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