

INSIDE

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EVENTS

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May 18, 2025



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Page A-8

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OBITUARIES

PAGE A-4,6

Johnson, Joyce
Jamison, Jr., Jack
Cobb, Richard
Buckland, Mary
Knotts, Karen
McMillen, Sr., Ivan
Taylor, Troy
Paul, Bobbi
Dalton, Daris
Bloeschmidt, Rod
Blizzard, Brenda
Blizzard, James
Kellison, Alice
Stevens, Justin
Watkins, Clarence
Kostak, Mike

MON COUNTY

Broadband projects advancing

Significant progress predicted this year

BY BEN CONLEY

BConley@DominionPost.com

Monongalia County Commissioner Sean Sikora said he expects the county's broadband projects to start bringing people online this year.

The commission used approximately \$8 million of its \$20.6 million American Rescue Plan Act dollars to leverage more than \$20 million in broadband projects by partnering with Internet service providers Comcast and Frontier.

Sikora said both ISPs are moving forward as planned and on schedule, noting the deadline to expend those ARPA dollars is Dec. 31, 2026.

"But we expect significant progress in 2025, and certainly by spring of 2026 a lot of these projects should be nearing completion. Of course, we allow some slack in there to allow for any unforeseen issues," he said. "The Frontier project, I mean, we're already having reports of people seeing them doing the work in the Halleck Road area. So it's out there and people are noticing it."

SEE PROJECTS A-2

ROADS

Green Bag roundabouts tied up in court

MPO Policy Board receives update on DOH projects

BY BEN CONLEY

BConley@DominionPost.com

For anyone who's been following the Green Bag Road saga, it likely comes as no surprise that the project to construct a pair of roundabouts finds itself parked in court.

West Virginia Division of Highways District 4 Manager Earl Gaskins explained as much during a recent conversation with members of the

Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization.

"The Green Bag Road, as you guys can imagine, we're fighting with right of way on that. Right now we currently have eight parcels we have not acquired. We're moving for eminent domain on that, so we're waiting on the court system," he said. "One of the things I'm seeing is we're overwhelming the court system. Everybody's busy, and by throwing these eminent domains in, we're overburdening the court system itself, but we're moving forward with that. Everything's looking good. Looks like we'll be able to

SEE COURT, A-2



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

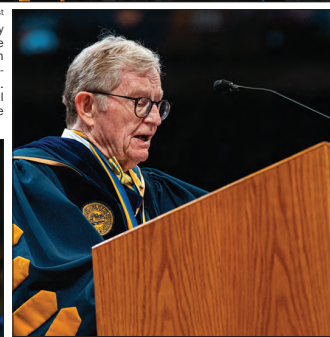
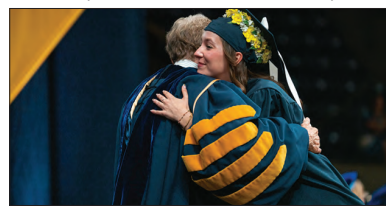
The West Virginia Division of Highways reports that eight parcels of land still are needed for the Green Bag Road project, and that eminent domain will be used.

GRADUATION DAYS



Benjamin Powell/The Dominion Post

West Virginia University commencement exercises continued Saturday for hundreds of graduates at the Coliseum at each of three separate ceremonies. The three-day graduation weekend concludes today with the final three spring graduations. Above, WVU class of 2025 graduates participate in their commencement ceremony Saturday afternoon. At right, WVU President Gordon Gee gives his remarks during his final commencement weekend as the school's leader. Below, WVU graduate Isabella Brawdy embraces President Gordon Gee on Saturday.



INSIDE

LOCAL **B-1** | OBITUARIES **A-4,6** | OPINION **C-1** | HOME **D-1** | LIFE & LEISURE **C-3** | SPORTS **B-4**

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