



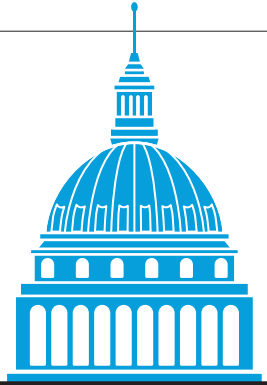
WVU IN FRISCO BOWL

The Mountaineers face Memphis in Texas matchup

WVGAZETTEMAIL.COM

Charleston Gazette-Mail

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 • A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER



Labor irked at loss on NLRB

By **MIKE TONY**
mtony@hdmediallc.com

Monday was the start of yet another workweek. But for America's labor landscape, it was also the end of something extraordinary. Monday marked the final day of the expiring term of Lauren McFerran on the National Labor Relations Board, the independent federal agency that oversees labor law, which she chaired after President Joe Biden appointed her to lead it on his first day in office. It was a quicker end to McFerran's board tenure than many expected, ushered in by West Virginia's senators and other McFerran opponents in a Dec. 11 vote on her renomination by the slimmest of margins. Although the board still has a 2-1 Democrat-appointed majority following McFerran's term expiration Monday, President-elect

SEE **NLRB, 7A**

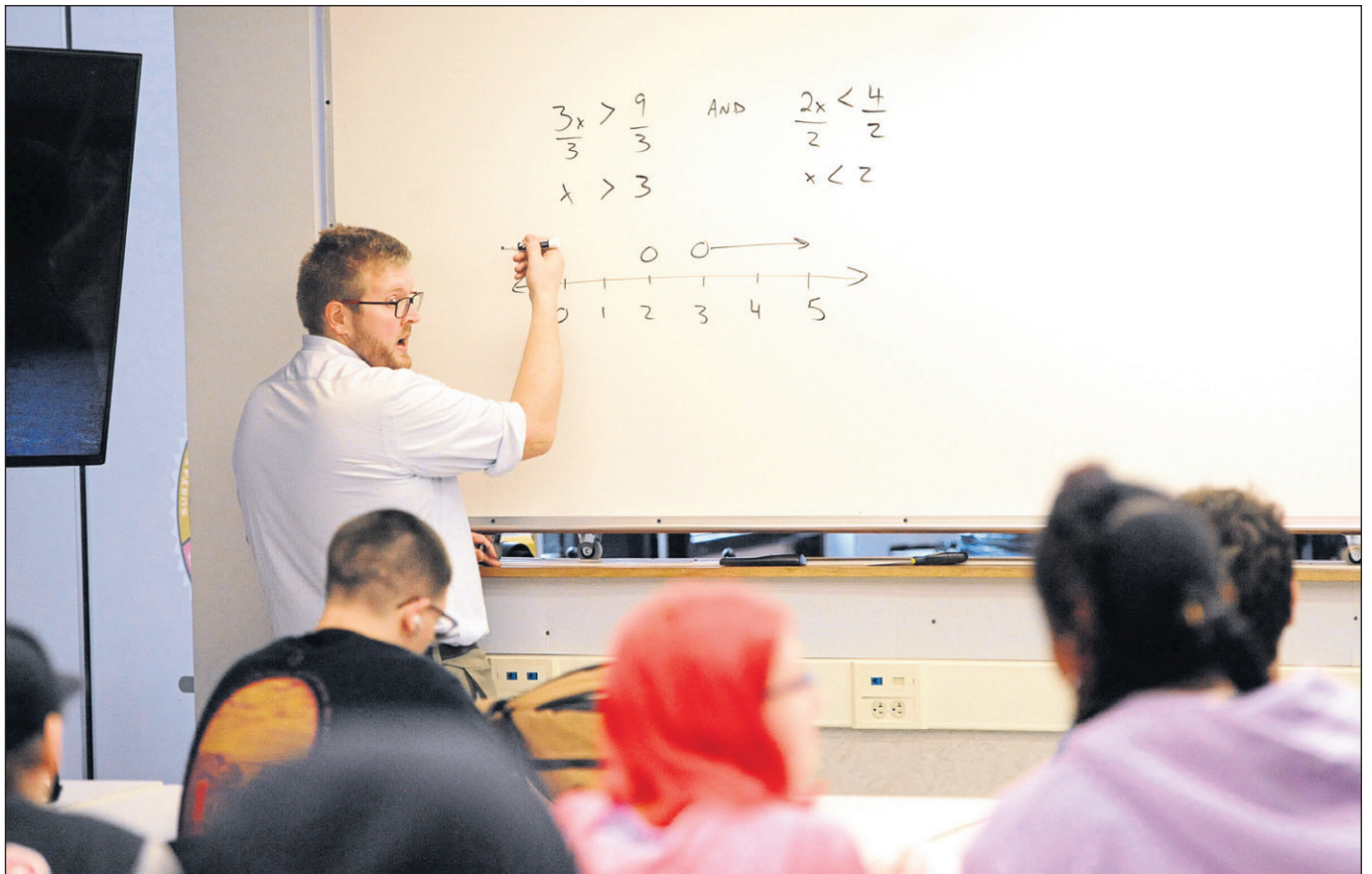
Stopgap budget offered in Congress

By **KEVIN FREKING**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders have unveiled a stopgap spending bill that will keep the federal government funded through March 14 and provide more than \$100 billion in emergency aid to help states and local communities recover from Hurricanes Helene and Milton and other natural disasters. The measure would prevent a partial government shutdown set to begin after midnight Friday. It would kick final decisions on this

SEE **CONGRESS, 7A**

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE



Adam Wolfe, an engineering and math teacher at Nitro High School, works with one of his classes on a problem Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024. Earlier in the day, Wolfe was announced as a 2024-25 Milken Educator Award winner, one of 42 in the country and the only one in West Virginia. The award, which comes with a \$25,000 prize, was announced at a schoolwide assembly. See video from Wolfe's award announcement at wvgazette.com/multimedia.

Nitro High math teacher wins national honor

By **SIERRA MARLING**
smarling@hdmediallc.com

ADAM WOLFE, a math and engineering teacher, did not wake up Tuesday morning expecting to be handed a \$25,000 check. But Wolfe and the students, faculty and staff of Nitro High School were surprised when he was named a 2024-25 Milken Educator Award winner at an assembly Tuesday. According to Stephanie Bishop, vice president of the Milken Educator Awards, there's no application for this award. The Milken Family Foundation targets early to mid-career education professionals across the country who complete outstanding work inside and outside of their school and surprise them with the no-strings-attached cash award. Bishop took center stage to share the big secret, and the crowd cheered their teacher



Wolfe is congratulated during the award presentation by West Virginia Schools Superintendent Michele Blatt (left) and Stephanie Bishop, vice president of the Milken Educator Awards.

and colleague. Wolfe, surprised, stepped down from the bleachers and joined Bishop in the middle of the gym. "I'm very humbled by this," he said. "I know there's a lot of very good educators in this

building, and a lot of them are probably better than I am. So, I really appreciate you. I hope my biggest skill in the classroom is empowering my students. Hopefully, I give you space and the opportunity to

be what you can be and discover what that is." Bishop said Wolfe's teaching style makes him a great example of a Milken Educator.

SEE **WOLFE, 7A**

Late AG, chief justice Darrell McGraw remembered for dedication, fairness



A photo of late West Virginia Supreme Court justice and attorney general Darrell McGraw sits on the stage during his funeral service inside the Culture Center at the West Virginia Capitol Complex in Charleston on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024.

By **ASHLEY PERHAM**
aperham@hdmediallc.com

A proud protector, a lifelong learner, a teacher and a great man — that's how friends and family remembered former West Virginia Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw Jr. on Tuesday. McGraw, 88, died Dec. 7. About 150 people attended his funeral service at the Culture Center, many of them McGraw cousins. McGraw was a Wyoming County native, a U.S. Army veteran and a West Virginia University graduate. A Democrat, McGraw won a 12-year term on the state's highest court in 1976, part of which was spent as chief justice. He was elected attorney general in 1992 and reelected four times before losing to Republican Patrick Morrissey in 2012. McGraw lost a bid to return to the Supreme Court in 2016. McGraw was known for his work on behalf of West Virginia workers and his lawsuits related to cigarette

manufacturers and the opioid epidemic. His brother Warren, also a former state Supreme Court justice, died last year.

Family remarks

Darrell McGraw's friend, Dr. William Harris, sang a medley of spirituals and the hymn "How Great Thou Art." Suzanne McGraw spoke of her uncle's love and admiration for his wife, Jorea Marple, a former state schools superintendent. "That is what Jorea and Darrell had: a good, strong, loving marriage. Jorea was Darrell V's last thought, as it was her name he said as he took his last breath," Suzanne said. "You were his world, Jorea." Darrell McGraw's son, Darrell III, and daughter Elliott McGraw told the crowd how the stature of their father's public legacy matched his private one. Darrell McGraw was proud of Marple, his children,

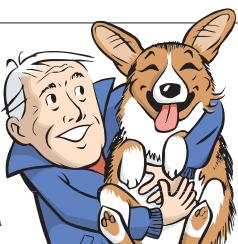
SEE **MCGRAW, 8A**

INSIDE: DETAILED INDEX ON 2A

Business	8B	Obituaries
Classified	11B	Opinion
Comics	5B	Sports
Crosswords	12B, 14B	Television
Metro	9A-14A	Weather

CAP WEST SAYS:

It's a tough job, getting rubs and scratches all day as a therapy dog, but someone has to do it. And my buddy Bo is up to the task. **Page 9A**



READ BREAKING NEWS ONLINE

WEBSITE: wvgazette.com
TWITTER: @wvgazette
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/charlestongazette



\$2.00



Subscriptions: 304-348-4800