



It was announced at the meeting of the Estill County Board on April 19, 2017, that two Estill County principals were awarded a \$10,000 grant sponsored by the William Schmidt foundation to attend a summer leadership program. Principals Charlotte Arvin of West Irvine Intermediate and Jessica Mullins of Estill Springs Elementary were chosen for the sponsorship. Superintendent Jeff Saylor stressed what an honor it was for them to have been chosen to participate in the program. He said \$20,000 had been put into reserve for two other principals to attend in the future. Left to right, above, are Arvin, board members L.W. Beckley and Jon Bicknell, and Mullins.



Estill County School's Food Service Director, Belinda Puckett and South Irvine Pre-K Center Food Service Manager, Mildred Brandenburg, was among the 900 school nutrition professionals who recently met with legislators in Washington D.C. asking for support of school meal programs. The Kentucky delegation, as part of the School Nutrition Association's 45th annual Legislative Action Conference, met with U.S. Rep. James Comer, congressman for Kentucky's 1st District. The contingent (pictured, L-R) included Shane Bosaw, Vice President, Kentucky School Nutrition Association from Union County Schools; Mildred Brandenburg; Belinda Puckett, President, Kentucky School Nutrition Association; Rep. Comer; Leah Feagin, Food Service Director for Mayfield Independent Schools; Susan Melton, Food Service Director for Russell County Schools; and Jan Anderson, Food Service Director for Fleming County School.

## Gatton Academy Team Wins West Ky. Science Bowl

A team from The Gatton Academy which included an Estill County High School student, won the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) West Kentucky Regional Science Bowl on February 17, 2017. The DOE National Science Bowl® (NSB) challenges students' knowledge in all areas of science, including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math.

With the win, the team traveled to the DOE's National Science Bowl (NSB), which was held in Washington, D.C., April 27 to May 1. The DOE provided the all-expense paid trip for the winning team to represent west Kentucky in the high school competition.

The Gatton Academy's winning team consists of seniors Karthik Boyareddydygari (Bowling Green High School), Caleb Stickney (Estill County High School), Tricia Thompson (Owensboro Catholic High School), Matthew Broadbent (Heritage Christian Academy) and junior Ethan Brown (McCracken County High School).

The Gatton Academy had

a second team in the competition, which finished the tournament in third place. This team, whose only loss came to the Gatton team that won.

"I am amazed at the accomplishments of both Gatton Academy Science Bowl teams this year at the DOE Regional Science Bowl," said junior Ethan Brown. "Both teams studied hard all year long and have made tremendous progress in their abilities to work as a team. Getting to take home two trophies once again is a huge honor, and we are looking forward to getting to participate at the national level!"

More than a dozen high school teams competed in the daylong tournament.

"The students started practicing even before the school year began," said Academic Opportunities Coordinator Cheryl Kirby-Stokes. "Gatton is incredibly proud of this wholly student-led initiative, and we look forward to representing the Academy and Kentucky in Washington, D.C."

During the national com-



Members of The Gatton Academy team that competed in the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl are (from left) Tricia Thompson of Owensboro, Matthew Broadbent of Cerulean, Estill County High School student Caleb Stickney of Irvine, Karthik Boyareddydygari of Bowling Green, Ethan Brown of Paducah and Coach Cheryl Kirby-Stokes.

petition, The Gatton Academy competed in the same fast-paced, question-and-answer format that was used in the regional competition. The students did not answer

questions during the entire trip, as they will also had the opportunity to visit national monuments and museums.

"The Science Bowl is the perfect fit for our students

who have been curating science knowledge for years," states Director of The Gatton Academy Dr. Lynette Breedlove. "I am proud of their leadership, persistence,

and commitment to developing their teamwork. They will be positive representations of our school and our state at the national competition."

## Hospital Program Designed to Help With Medication

A new program at Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital (MWMH) has been made available to patients designed to help with medication management and patient safety. In today's healthcare environment, it is not uncommon for a patient to see multiple health care providers and specialists or use multiple pharmacies in an attempt to get the best value. Unfortunately, these behaviors create ample opportunity for error including: interacting medications, duplicate therapy, or a necessary medication that was stopped for a procedure and never restarted.

Medication Therapy Management, commonly referred to as MTM, is an emerging pharmacy service aimed at bridging that gap and helping health care providers identify concerns. MTM is a comprehensive one-on-one service examining current medications (both prescription and over-the-counter), vaccination status, and affording the patient an opportunity to ask questions about their medication (side effects, administration, why it is necessary, etc.). It is also an opportunity for a patient to address any issues related to their inability to be compliant with their medication. The ultimate goal is to find a solution to help if they aren't taking their medication the way it is prescribed because they don't like the side effects, it is too expensive to buy as frequently as it is needed, or they have trouble remembering to take it.

In 2016, MWMH and the Project HOME Network were awarded a federal Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant to develop a MTM program. The aim of the program is to prevent unnecessary trips to the emergency department or hospital admissions caused by medication error or misuse. This service is being provided to residents of Estill, Lee, and Powell Counties at no charge for the duration of the grant funding period. In addition, members of the pharmacy team at MWMH have been trained in the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP). This program helps match patients with available assistance programs to ensure they can obtain their medication when they are unable to afford it. If you or someone you know is having trouble affording medication or is concerned about the number or combination of medications taken, please reach out to your primary care provider for a referral or contact MWMH at 606-723-2115 and ask to speak to Kristen Blankenbecler or Amanda Tipton in the pharmacy department.

(The Project HOME Network (PHN) was established in 2009 to address issues related to access to care. The PHN network covers three counties in Eastern Kentucky with a combined population of approximately 35,000 people. Based at MWMH hospital, fifteen agencies are members of the network includ-

ing: MWMH, White House Clinics, Estill Medical Clinic, Mercy Health Clinics, Foothills Clinic, Juniper Healthcare, Lee County Health Department, Estill County Health Department, Kentucky Homeplace, Estill Development Alliance/ Chamber of Commerce, Estill County Emergency Medical Services, US Acute Care Solutions, Bluegrass.org, Westcare, Inc. and Hospice Care Plus.) Note: Funding for the Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP)



Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital and Project HOME Network Pharmacist Kristen Blankenbecler explains medication dosage to a patient during a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) session.



Members of the Project HOME Network met recently at Michael's in Irvine to discuss plans for the new Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant. Members include L to R John Isfort, Director - Project HOME Network; Candy Ritterhouse, Counselor Bluegrass.org; Susan Starling, President/CEO MWMH; Kevin Fleming, Rural Project Manager Kentucky Office of Rural Health; Donna Isfort, APRN/President Estill Medical Clinic PSC; Kayla Combs, Rural Project Manager Kentucky Office of Rural Health and Kentucky Homeplace; Morgan Fowler, Operations Director Mercy Health Clinics; Kristen Blankenbecler, Pharmacist - MWMH Project HOME Network; Shelia Wise, Training Major/Paramedic Estill County EMS; Jimmie Weiser, Director Estill County EMS; Jerrica Brandenburg, Counselor West-Care Inc; Paige Tipton, RN, Healthcare Liaison Hospice Care Plus; Arielle Estes, Business Development/Foundation MWMH; Courtney Barnes, Health Educator Estill County Health Department.