



# THE TROJAN TRIBUNE

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## GHS student Fletcher Ulbrich competes in the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge

BY TROJAN TRIBUNE STAFF

As a first place winner in the Trojan Entrepreneurship Challenge (TEC) with his business Fletcher's Bees and Boards, GHS freshman Fletcher Ulbrich competes in the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge (KEC) in Manhattan April 16-17.

GHS senior Avery Smith, who was hired by Network Kansas to photograph the event, was in attendance as well.

For the past six years, GHS instructor Beth Wilson has arranged an opportunity for students to showcase business ideas.

The TEC was created to educate students about the importance of entrepreneurship and how to create, design and run a business.

GHS held the school-wide TEC on Friday, February 21. A total of eight teams/individuals entered the competition with a chance to win up to one thousand dollars.

Students had to write a business plan and a financial statement (including loan costs and start-up fees), create a four-minute slideshow presentation, present in front of judges and design a trade-show table.

Prizes consisted of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second, \$250 for third, \$150 for fourth and \$100 for community choice.

Following his first place finish, Ulbrich advanced to the KEC.

Sponsors for the KEC include Network Kansas, Kansas State University Research & Extension and Kansas State University Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship with the goal of promoting entrepreneurship and small business development in Kansas.

Ulbrich, accompanied by KEC sponsor Beth



**GHS freshman Fletcher Ulbrich presents his business Fletcher's Bees and Boards to spectators at the Kansas Entrepreneurship Competition at KSU April 17 and 18. Ulbrich, accompanied by GHS business teacher Beth Wilson, participated in the welcome reception and design challenge Wednesday, April 16. After submitting an executive summary and competing in marketing and innovations activities, mock boardroom presentations, a promotional video interview and a two-hour trade show, Ulbrich was awarded third place and presented \$500.** COURTESY PHOTO

Wilson, participated in the welcome reception and design challenge Wednesday, April 16.

At the design challenge, he was placed in a group of four competitors who were given the challenge of creating and presenting a year-round public farm experience and marketing plan for KEC sponsors, J&H Farms of Manhattan.

On Thursday, Ulbrich was awarded \$500 after submitting an executive summary and competing in marketing and innovations activities, mock boardroom presentations, a promotional video interview and a two-hour trade show.

The executive summary was critiqued on market opportunity, management capability, business model and product/service offering.

Scoring for the Mock Interview was based on the following characteristics: realistic, justification, specificity,

originality, professionalism and knowledge.

In reference to his third place finish, Ulbrich stated "I'm honored to have the opportunity to represent Girard in this challenge as well as the experience and mentorship of Mrs. Wilson. This has given me good insight for what I need to improve on for next year's competition."

When asked about the experience, Wilson stated, "Every year the KEC makes additions and changes that continue to improve the experiences and opportunities of the young entrepreneurs. Fletcher is the type of student who soaked up every bit of it. He thrived in the mock board rooms and trade show and used the learning opportunities of the marketing challenge to grow his knowledge of running his own business. We could not have asked for a stronger representative of GHS."



**GHS FBLA officers and board members celebrate sweet rewards Wednesday, April 23 in the GHS commons area. The newly inducted officers consist of Madison Cranston, president; Josie Gronau, vice president; Maddie Coester, secretary; Caleb Humble, treasurer; and Seth Wilson, STUCO representative. A new addition to the team this year is board members Harrison Burke and Ben Scheibe.** COURTESY PHOTO

## FBLA members celebrate the end of the year

BY MADISON CRANSTON

TROJAN TRIBUNE

On Wednesday, April 23, GHS FBLA members attended a celebration of their accomplishments throughout the year.

At the party members were given "sweet treats" provided by East Side Café and cookies and cupcakes supplied by Rons.

Before the awards, Ken Collins, Don Wheeler and Doug Shireman with the Vulcan Masonic Lodge presented a \$1,200 check to the chapter for their car raffle ticket sales and continued support.

Mrs. Wilson was surprised by the amount of the donation and stated, "The Vulcan Lodge's check was more than double the amount we were ex-

pecting as the final payment on the classic car raffle fundraiser. This last check brought the total earnings for our partnership fundraising with the Vulcan Lodge to over \$10,000.

"We are fortunate, thanks to Girard alum Don Wheeler, that we have been offered the partnership for this fundraising opportunity again next year. Next year's classic car raffle is a beautiful blue 1967 Pontiac GTO and we will hold our chapter's ticket sales through August, September, and October."

Sponsor Beth Wilson then began recognitions by reminiscing on FBLA's achievements this year.

To start off the year, FBLA had a Can 4 Cookie Drive at Fall Festival. Members also volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army and served the

community with fundraisers and projects throughout the year.

This year GHS FBLA was a National Champion Chapter, Kansas Gold Seal Chapter, August's Kansas Chapter of the Month and had many recipients of Business Achievement Awards.

Recognition was given to outstanding members, seniors were awarded their FBLA graduation cords and members who placed at the district and state levels were recognized.

The event ended with the induction of the 2025-26 officer team: Madison Cranston, president; Josie Gronau, vice president; Maddie Coester, secretary; Caleb Humble, treasurer; and Seth Wilson, STUCO representative. Additional board members include Harrison Burke and Ben Scheibe.



**GHS FFA members Chance Gillard, Megan Bennett, Madison Cranston, Lainey Prince, Josie Gronau, Gavin Huber and Meckenize Wood are inducted into the 2025-26 FFA Chapter Officer team at the Annual Chapter Banquet in John E. Shireman Auditorium Monday, April 28. The offices include Gillard, student advisor; Wood, sentinel; Bennet, reporter; Huber, treasurer; Cranston, secretary; Prince, vice president; and Gronau, president.** RON GATES



**RVH fifth graders participate in a science experiment over water displacement and buoyancy at the Pittsburg YMCA Friday April 25. These students were able to team up in small groups, and, with the help of a parent, construct boats from cardboard and duct tape. The goal of the exercise was to make it across the pool without sinking. Following their experiment, they enjoyed bowling at Holiday Lanes.** COURTESY PHOTO

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