ACHS class of 2023 graduates

Wyatt Franklin and James Gabehart during graduation on Friday night.

Graduates Anna Scott, Jayci Janes and Chris Combs.

Graduates Adrianna McAneney, Hannah Perkins and Caleb Johnson.

Graduates Preston Burton, Olivia Burton, Keaton Burton, Briley Burns, Charles Bryant, Rachel Brown, Mayatu Brown, Kailee Brown, and Gavin Brockman Adrianna McAneney, Hannah Perkins and Caleb Johnson.

Photos by Beth Holmes

Cross set to enter plea

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police chief. The theft is alleged to have occurred between February 2020 and February 2021.

According to a press release issued by the City of Columbia and Police Chief JR Murphy at the time of Cross' arrest, the charge stems from discrepancies found internally that were turned over to federal officials. If convicted, he faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison. He has pleaded not guilty.

A change of plea hearing is set for Friday, June 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Bowling Green federal court before Chief Judge Greg N Stivers.

Cross' attorney, Frank Mascagni, a partner of Mascagni Law Office in Louisville, could not be reached for comment.

By Sharon Burton
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School board helps fund new instruments for band

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the $30,000 per year, but that total would include $15,000 a year the board already provides the band. All board members voted in favor except Terry Harvey, who chose not to vote.

After presentations from two banks, the board voted to move its banking to Bank of Columbia. The board is required to bid the process every four years and has been with First and Farmers National Bank for 12 years. Bank of Columbia provided a variable rate with a minimum interest rate. First and Farmers originally offered a fixed rate but came back with a matching variable rate after bids were opened.

After discussion, Harvey made the motion to move to Bank of Columbia so they could alternate with local businesses. All members voted yes except Grider, who said he had a relationship with both banks and didn't want to offend them.

Also during the meeting, the board voted to purchase new tires from Hancock Tire and retreads from Bingham Tire in Somerset.

An updated employee salary schedule was approved that includes changes already approved by the board.

All board members were present. They are chairman David Karnes, Dana King, Destiny Greer, Grider and Harvey.

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Court votes to establish countywide payroll tax

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cent occupational tax in effect. During the fiscal year ending June 2022, the city generated $1.25 million from the tax. The county tax would also tax workers in the city limits but add businesses outside of the city, so a .75 percent could generate $1 million annually for the county.

There was little discussion about the proposal during the meeting, with the topic taking less than four minutes, but it has been a topic for heated discussion in past meetings.

Bryant had asked for a 1 percent occupational tax but only magistrate Terry Hadley supported the vote. Two weeks ago, Flatt recommended a .25 percent occupational tax, but the motion died with a tie vote.

Bryant also recommended and received first reading to change the administrative code to reduce the time a new employee must wait before being eligible for health insurance. The current code requires 90 days but the court unanimously voted to change the code to 30 days.

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