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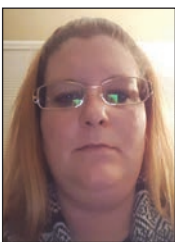
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Country Mart store staffer charged with stealing \$37,000

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT – The bookkeeper at Garnett's Country Mart grocery store faces 17 counts of felony theft in connection with the disappearance of more than \$37,000 from the local store's coffers.

A source close to the local store told the Review Megan Marshall Wilson, 47 of Garnett, was taken into custody August 6 after an investigation into the missing funds. A hearing was set for tomorrow in the case to consider The Review's request for a probable cause affidavit in Wilson's arrest. As of mid week no court date had been set for Wilson's first appearance



Wilson

after she bond out of jail.

The court complaint alleges 17 separate counts of theft, reflecting 17 separate allegations in which funds were taken without authorization. Those amounts ranged in increments as high as \$3,800, down to \$50, though most were in the \$2,000 to \$3,500 range.

Pyramid Foods is headquartered in the town of Rogersville in Southwest Missouri and according to its LinkedIn profile operates some 37 stores under multiple banners, primarily Price Cutter. The company is employee-owned through a ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan), a kind of qualified retirement plan that allows employees to own shares of the company that employs them.

Business analysts say small companies are often more vulnerable to embezzlement because they tend

SEE **CHARGES** ON PAGE 12

Garnett will float 2026 budget with \$27 property tax decrease from last year

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT– Garnett city commissioners will submit a 2026 spending plan to city residents at an upcoming public hearing that proposes some \$1,500,000 in extra spending for the coming year but manages to hold its mill levy barely below the revenue neutral rate defined by Kansas law.

The budget hearing set for August 26th at 6:00 PM at Garnett City Hall will give the public an opportunity to question commissioners on various elements of the budget and spending plans as so far compiled. A budget summary in preparation for the hearing was published in the Anderson County

Review on the public notices pages.

Overall the budget calls for a general spending plan of some \$17 million, up from authorized spending of \$15.5 in 2025. The new budget plugs an additional \$762,000 into the cities general fund for equipment reserve, various insurance and personnel benefits. Still the mainstay of those expenditures is paid by user fees and the cities utility revenues, with local property tax funds amounting to only \$1.2 million of the \$17 million overall spending proposal. The property tax portion of the 2026 budget actually reflects a \$27 reduction

SEE **BUDGET** ON PAGE 12



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 8-14-2025 / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The mysterious lack of Kansas media interest in Porfirio De La Cruz-Cantu

Statewide media can find Garnett for other stories; why not this one?

BY DANE HICKS

THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT – With high profile cases of illegal immigrant crime like the Rachel Morin murder in Maryland still peppering national news reports in the post-Biden border era, the lack of Kansas and metro Kansas City media acknowledgment of assault and attempted rape charges against Porfirio De La Cruz-Cantu in Anderson County has become curiously obvious.

In fact, if not for coverage in this newspaper, a related online news site and an Ottawa radio station, there would have been no coverage at all of the illegal immigrant who a 64 year old victim says knocked her from her bicycle on the Prairie Spirit Trail north of Garnett in

October 2024 and attempted to forcibly rape her.

While that blackout on the Cruz-Cantu story continued, regional media reports covering the hardships and challenges faced by illegal immigrants since Trump's stepped-up ICE enforcement began have been numerous:

- On July 30th KCTV 5 in Kansas City covered Homeland Security arrests of at least 11 people in immigration raids at KC area Mexican restaurants, with eyewitness video and follow up on detainees and community reaction.

- On July 28th national public radio affiliate KCUR headline the story "President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown has many recent immigrants terrified," detailing how recent rounds of enforcement have affected immigrant neighborhoods and small businesses in Kansas City KS, along with economic and social consequences.

- In June and July, the Kansas

City Star ran a multi-part series on the labor and industry impacts of local immigration enforcement along with law enforcement cooperation with federal agents, and trends in local arrests and detentions tied to the administration's enforcement push.

- August 12, The Wichita Eagle defined as "Trumpism" a bogus tip from an anonymous member of the public to the FBI alleging Lenexa City Councilwoman Melanie Arroyo was undocumented – an allegation quickly determined as unfounded by authorities. Instead of noting the system's success in confirming Arroyo, the Eagle maligned the resurgent enforcement effort: "The purpose of the Trumpist immigration system? It's to harass people like Melanie Arroyo."

Though there has been no shortage of immigration coverage by media serving Kansas, the story

SEE **MEDIA** ON PAGE 3

Garnett to push November sales tax vote for new pool, improvements

BY DANE HICKS THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW

GARNETT – Garnett City Commissioners made their first pitch to voters last week for a voter approved one cent sales tax to be placed on the November election ballot, aimed at bankrolling a new city swimming pool and a number of other city infrastructure projects officials say have been languishing for more than a decade due to lack of funds.

City manager Travis Wilson included a summary of the proposal of the July utility bills recently received in the mail by city utility customers. The new sales tax would primarily function as the funding instrument for a new swimming pool, aimed at replacing the 80 year old pool in Lake Garnett Park which has been the subject

of financial and operational concerns for the last several years.

The possibility of a new city sales tax has been discussed by commissioners for more than a year, since the expiration of a county sales tax approved by voters to fund the payoff of the Anderson County jail gave city leaders what they believed to be the flexibility to replace that tax for city projects. State legislators also finished a phase-out of sales tax on groceries, which might provide more leverage for an addition of a higher local tax.

A year ago commissioners paid \$7,000 for an engineering study on the



swimming pool which revealed the city's inability to meet the low to moderate income population requirements that would most likely prevent it from being awarded much of any grant construction for a new facility. In 2022 a new swimming pool was estimated to cost \$2.5 to \$3.5 million, prior to spiking inflation since then. If the referendum for the sales tax passes, the swimming pool project would

SEE **VOTE** ON PAGE 12



THE ANDERSON COUNTY REVIEW 8-14-2025 / JESSIE DUNCAN

Jazzy Duncan, Colby Mundell and Paislee Modlin revel in water sprayed by the Garnett Fire Department during a break in the hot fun at the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce Back To School Movie Night at Mundell's Pumpkin Patch on Saturday.