Ex-merchant sentenced for WIC fraud

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Herbert Dix has been sentenced in federal court for defrauding the U.S. Department of Agriculture and possessing forged WIC vouchers.

"Families must not rely on government funds for basic subsistence," said U.S. Attorney Sally Quillen. "This defendant stole from the USDA and taxpayers, denying some of the neediest families the funds meant to help them survive."

Dix said it is unfortunate that people continue to defraud nutritional programs that have been created to provide assistance in times of need. The USDA's Office of Inspector General remains committed to working with the department of Justice and its law enforcement partners in ensuring that those who steal from the taxpayers and nutritional programs, such as the WIC program, are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"People who defraud these programs foolishly think they can never be caught, but USDA and law enforcement agencies are working hard to prevent and prosecute fraud of federal resources," said Kosinski. "Everyone in our community is encouraged to continue helping to report cases of fraud."

The USDA issues WIC vouchers to low-income, scripts, families, who can use the vouchers to purchase various food items from authorized retailers. Each WIC participant is required to pay a small amount of cash (the difference between the face value of the voucher and the value of the food items purchased) when redeeming WIC vouchers for eligible foods.

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Floating for Fun and Funds

**BY THOMAS HOOPER**

The Griffin Spalding County United Way hosted its sixth annual Cardboat Boat Race Saturday at Dummer Lake Park. It was also the time when the participants announced the funds they’ve raised so far for the annual community campaign by the United Way.

According to Griffin Spalding County United Way Executive Director Denise Quick, the goal for the participants is to reach $200,000. They exceed this goal and raised $240,000 — with the participants bringing $100,000, Cardboat $60,000, Spalding Regional Hospital $10,000, Spalding County $40,000, and United Bank $60,000.

The overall goal for the community campaign, which officially started on Aug. 3, will come to an end on Thanksgiving Day, at $400,000.

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County may issue $6.9 million tax anticipation note

**ON THE WEB**

The complete agenda is available at: https://www.spartanburg.com/commissioners/countyagenda.pdf

The tax anticipation note, or TAN, according to the agenda, is "necessary for contingency expenses and must be paid back by Dec. 31, 2013."

It is a temporary loan to make payments it may incur, depending on property tax revenues it expects to receive that year. It is a "straight" TAN, meaning it has no interest.

The commissioners would borrow the money from Region Bank, according to the agenda, "at the rate of 3.982 percent per annum until the payment is full paid, computed on the basis of a 365-day year, though it must be paid in full by Dec. 31."

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**TURNOUT**

"We’ve had a good season since I’ve been here, we’ve had an increase in enrollment," said Assistant Vice President Travis Gentile. "That shows we are really pushing to make our students more aware of what we have to offer."

"Every semester since I’ve been here, we’ve had an increase in enrollment. That shows we are really pushing to make our students more aware of what we have to offer," said Gentile. "We’ve had a good season, we’ve had an increase in enrollment since I’ve been here."

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UGA-Griffin happy with Preview Day turnout

**BY THOMAS HOOPER**

According to preliminary data, UGA-Griffin’s student enrollment for the 2013 fall semester is up seven percent from the same time last year. That would make it the largest percentage increase of all UGA campuses, including the main campus in Athens.

Yet, there is still room for more students to join the local campus on Experiment Street. And to help prospective students understand what it takes to enroll, UGA-Griffin hosted its annual Preview Day Saturday.

"People want to know what they need to get in," said UGA psychology professor Perry Bell. "What we did today was we pulled everybody together who could answer questions."

The benefit of a Preview Day, he says, is the ability to inform students and others what prospective students will do more with a UGA-Griffin representative in a one-on-one situation, said Bell.

"It’s a one-stop shop," he said, adding that program coordinators are able to help with all kinds of issues — from transcript to financial aid.

Every major at UGA-Griffin was represented during Preview Day, as the local campus offers undergraduate degree completion programs in general business, consumer economics, microeconomics, special education and agriculture. Graduate programs in agricultural economics, microeconomics education, and workforce education are also available in UGA-Griffin.

As for new programs, the local campus started a new degree program this semester — a bachelor of arts in inter-disciplinary studies, with concentrations in psychology and sociology.