

Attorney jailed for money laundering disbarred

BY ANNA DOLIANITIS
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A 65-year-old former Aiken attorney and former judge who was sentenced to 12 months in federal prison for money laundering and conspiracy to commit mail fraud has been disbarred by the state of South Carolina.

John W. Harte Jr., who is incarcerated in the federal prison system, was disbarred retroactive to Sept. 22, 2009 – the date of his interim suspension. He will

be required to surrender his Certificate of Admission to the Practice of Law within 15 days, according to a S.C. Supreme Court opinion filed Monday.



HARTE

Harte pleaded guilty in September 2009 to his role in a conspiracy to conceal money and property that his former client, Aiken resident William J. Trier

II, stole from an employer, Dixie Narco, the U.S. Attorney's Office said at the time. Trier used his position with the company to create and approve payment for false invoices.

Along with Columbia attorney John Fitzgerald O'Connor Jr., Harte assisted Trier in hiding more than \$5,200,000 that Trier embezzled over a 10-year period, beginning in 1997.

Harte was hired by Trier on or around February 2007 to represent him in a criminal matter, and,

at some point thereafter, Harte began helping him to conceal the proceeds of his criminal activities, according to Monday's order.

"In consultation with others, respondent knowingly conspired with Mr. Trier to take actions that were intended to hide, conceal and protect the proceeds and assets that resulted from Mr. Trier's criminal activities," the order read.

Harte was committed to the United States Bureau of Prisons on Oct. 13, 2010, and is being housed at

S.C.'s Williamsburg Federal Correctional Institution, according to a federal inmate search. He has a projected release date of Nov. 11.

In addition to the prison sentence, Harte was jointly responsible for \$483,350 in restitution.

The disbarment order stated that Harte has violated the Rules of Professional Conduct by assisting a client in conduct he knew was criminal or fraudulent, by committing a criminal act that reflects adversely

on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects and by engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation, according to the order.

Further, the order stated, "It shall be ground for discipline for lawyer to be convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or a serious crime."

A phone call answered at Harte's former law office Monday afternoon confirmed that Harte is no longer practicing law.

BUILDING A NEW BARN



STAFF PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

BARN RAISING: Progressive Show Jumping's Rick and Cathy Cram stand beside the new barn being constructed by Cooper Home & Stable at their Highfields Event Center.

NAMES & NOTES

Perry graduates from Army basic training

Andrell Perry graduated from U.S. Army basic training at Fort Jackson. She graduated from Ridge Spring-Monetta High School class of 2010. Congratulations from Billy (Dad), Mary (Mom) and Ashley (sister).



PERRY

Aiken scholarship winners recognized

The CSRA College Night Scholarship Winners in Aiken County were: Ashley Lawrence of Edgefield, Adam Daniel Martin of Aiken, Taylor Griffin of Aiken, Samantha Campbell of North Augusta, Kylie Elaine Amos of North Augusta, Megan Dixon of North Augusta and Kaitlynn Autery of Aiken.

Farr completes Army basic training

Joseph K. Farr has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land naviga-

tion, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics. Farr is the son of Bryan and Lynn Farr of Wagener. He is a 2011 graduate of Wagener-Salley High School.

Mason is semifinalist for Nat'l Achievement

Maya Mason of Aiken, a senior at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, was named a National Achievement Semifinalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. She is now eligible for one of approximately 800 scholarships worth more than \$2.4 million that will be offered next spring.

Shanahan completes basic training

Nolan S. Shanahan has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics. Shanahan graduated from the split option enlistment program that allows high school students to attend basic training between their junior and senior years. They will

be assigned to their reserve or national guard units during their senior year and attend their advanced individual training upon graduation from high school. Shanahan is the son of Diane Shanahan and Kirk Shanahan, both of Aiken. He is a student at South Aiken High School.

VanZant graduates from basic training

Gage C. VanZant has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics. VanZant is the son of Lisa Bryant of North Augusta, and Rad VanZant of Johnston. He is a 2010 graduate of Augusta Technical College.

Pilot awarded Wells Fargo scholarship

Wells Fargo has established a new scholarship for first generation college students at Converse College. Caitlyn Pilot of Aiken was selected as one of six of the first Wells Fargo Scholars. Her goal is being the first in her immediate family to graduate from college.

New wing at NAMS to be dedicated at board meeting

BY ROB NOVIT
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The Aiken County Board of Education will move its regular meeting to North Augusta Middle School tonight for a dedication of the school's new wing.

The ceremony will be held in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m., followed by the regular session at 7 p.m.

"The new addition is working out well," said principal Barry Head. "One of the most obvious things is the new cafeteria, where we had six lunches before. Now we have just three, and, from a scheduling standpoint, it's so much nicer."

The building addition includes two new science labs, larger classrooms and

two band and chorus rooms.

"We have all the good things that come with a new building," Head said. "The halls are much wider, and that has freed up space in the rest of the school. There's a different atmosphere in the school. Kids are taking care of the building and are proud of it."

In other business, Associate Superintendent Dr. Kevin O'Gorman will present updates on the school intervention team and school renewal plans alignments.

The School Board is expected to approve sev-

eral school grants. North Augusta Elementary School and East Aiken School of the Arts have been awarded \$14,000 grants through the S.C. Department of Education. NAES is receiving the A.R.T.S. (Artists Reaching Talented Students) award. East Aiken is getting an Arts in the Heart grant. Both schools will use the funds in part for Artists in Residence, materials and supplies.

The architectural firm Craig Gauden Davis has completed construction document plans at Busbee Corbett Elementary Middle School for a gym restroom addition. The new restroom will replace one within the gym that is accessible to an athletic locker room, leading to incidents of theft in that room.



O'GORMAN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women in Unity book club to meet Thurs.

Women in Unity will hold its first book club meeting on Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Women in Unity Learning and Development Center on Glover Street in Edgefield. The first book will be "Turning Points" by Eddie J. Woods. For more information, call 637-2010 or 637-0769.

Legal clinic to be held on Thursday

The S.C. Bar Pro Bono Program will sponsor a legal clinic on Thursday. The topic is family law and will cover separation, divorce and custody. Attorney Margaret C. Tribert will be the speaker. The clinic will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aiken County Public Library, 314 Chesterfield St. S. There is no cost. For more informa-

tion, call 799-6653, ext. 158.

Liberty Hospice to host workshop

Liberty Hospice of Aiken will host a workshop on the five wishes program, an easy alternative to the sometimes-complicated task of informing loved ones in the event of a life-threatening illness. The program will take place at Baynham's Family Restaurant, 2620 Columbia Highway, on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Michael Sides at 643-0001 or Delori Brown 645-0071.

Needlepoint guild to meet on Thursday

The Aiken Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild will meet on Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Aiken County Public Library. The Persian Tile project will be continued. Visitors are welcome.

For more information, call 599-0465.

Essential Tremors group to meet

The Essential Tremors Support Group will meet on Monday at 2 p.m. at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, 961 Trail Ridge Road. The guest speaker will be Brian Parr, Ph.D., associate professor with the Department of Exercise Science at USC Aiken.

Rep. Tom Young to hold town meeting

Rep. Tom Young will hold a town meeting on Wednesday, at 6 p.m. He will review the past legislative session and discuss the upcoming session. Town meetings are also planned for Monday at 6 p.m. at Leavelle McCampbell Middle School and Oct. 24, at 4 p.m. at the Woodside Reserve Club.

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