

Public Works audit suggests fixes

▪ The report recommends a “consistent, systematic and transparent process” to prevent fraud.

BY BRIAN BARBER
World Staff Writer

An independent forensic audit of Tulsa's Public Works Department has recommended tighter and more transparent processes to prevent similar situations to this year's fraud and bribery scandal.

The Tulsa World on Friday ob-

tained a copy of the report that was delivered to the mayor by auditing firm KPMG and law firm Hall Estill, which have been working on it since related federal indictments were announced in January.

“While it would be impossible to eliminate all criminal activity, there are measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of wrongful

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Read the full forensic report and the Public Works director's response: tulsaworld.com/forensicaudit

conduct similar to that alleged in the indictments,” the report states.

The alleged schemes involved inflating the values of final payment invoices to receive kickbacks on city construction projects and influencing through bribes the awarding

of city contracts for inspection services.

At the center of the accusations is Albert Martinez, who resigned as a Public Works field engineering manager the day before federal indictments naming him and some contractors were made public.

Auditors found no evidence that Martinez allegedly was able to use his position on the city's Professional Consulting Services Selection Committee effectively to steer contracts to any of the companies

affiliated with the defendants.

But they are recommending a “consistent, systematic and transparent process” to document the selection process, along with the rotation of committee members.

The auditors also suggest numerous methods and record-keeping techniques to prevent a single person from being able to successfully inflate the value of invoices and have them paid by the city.

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PUPPY LESS

FEWER BREEDERS ARE SEEN IN STATE



Commercial breeder Rosemary Mounce holds 4-week-old bulldog puppies at Valley Kennels outside Locust Grove on Thursday. Valley Kennels has seen a steep increase in costs for care, housing, feeding and medical expenses for its dogs. MICHAEL WYKE/Tulsa World

Rising costs tied to drop in dog breeders

BY OMER GILLHAM
World Staff Writer

Economic pressures and tougher scrutiny of the industry appear to be causing a decline in the number of commercial dog breeders across the country, including in Oklahoma, records show.

Some puppy dealers seem to be quitting the business, while others are switching over to retail sales, which do not require federal licensing, an official said.

Oklahoma is among the top five states that are home to thousands of breeders and brokers licensed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Most dog breeders raise ex-

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View statistics for commercial breeders as of January: tulsaworld.com/breederstats

Puppy Profits: Read the investigative series on puppy breeders, search a database of licensed breeders and dealers compliance inspections by the USDA, and watch a slide show and videos: tulsaworld.com/puppymills

pensive, purebred puppies for commercial sale.

Since 2006, the number of USDA breeders in Oklahoma has

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Commercial breeding definitions

USDA breeder: A breeder licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and subject to regulations that cover sanitation, pen size, veterinary care and protection from the elements.

USDA broker: A person licensed by the USDA to buy and sell animals in wholesale and retail markets.

Purebred: A puppy whose sire and dam (parents) are registered with a dog registration organization that tracks the animal's lineage.

Trust takes over OSU Med Center

▪ The transition goes smoothly, an official says.

BY KIM ARCHER
World Staff Writer

A city-controlled trust officially became the owner of the Oklahoma State University Medical Center on Thursday, with St. John Health System as the hospital's manager.

Friday was the first full day for the hospital under its new ownership.

“It was smoother than we had hoped it could have been,” Jan Slater, the hospital's interim CEO, said of the transition.

At midnight Thursday, hospital staff members had to discharge all

90 patients and readmit them to the hospital under the trust's ownership, she said.

“Unfortunately, we had to wake the patients up and put new arm-bands on them,” Slater said.

But she said the patients were understanding, and each received a gift bag that included a note explaining what was happening.

The hospital's nearly 800 employees are being leased to the hospital by Ardent Health Services until St. John can assemble its human re-

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A thunderstorm helps highlight the 41st Street Plaza's unique water features during its official opening Friday morning. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World

Plaza opening hailed by donors, officials

BY P.J. LASSEK
World Staff Writer

QuikTrip Corp. made a deliberate decision two years ago when it decided to give Tulsa an innovative gathering spot in the River Parks to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

During a thunderstorm Friday morning, public officials and River Parks supporters gathered at the 41st Street Plaza for its official opening.

“The selection of this spot was very intentional,” QuikTrip President Chet Cadieux said. “River Parks is the one thing that everyone in the city of Tulsa has in common. It's our city's gathering spot. It's the front porch of the city of Tulsa.”

Cadieux said every neighborhood has its own park but that River Parks belongs to all of Tulsa.

The location also is significant

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Guthrie soldier injured in Iraq

▪ He was shot in the neck and jaw while on patrol.

BY MANNY GAMALLO
World Staff Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — An Army National Guard soldier from Guthrie is recovering at the Walter Reed Medical Center after he was shot in the neck and jaw last week in Iraq.

The Oklahoma National Guard said Cpl. Adam Schuster, 21, was in a dismounted patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was shot with a small-caliber gun by an insurgent. The bullet damaged his jaw and some teeth.



RECOVERING
Cpl. Adam Schuster: The bullet damaged his jaw and teeth. More surgeries to fix the wounds are expected.

The Guard said Schuster underwent surgery Wednesday at Walter Reed, in Washington, D.C., and is expected to undergo several more operations before he fully recovers.

Schuster is the first casualty among

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