

TRIB LIVE
REAL ESTATE



SEARCH FOR
HOMES IN AND
AROUND
PITTSBURGH!

VIEW LISTINGS

POWERED BY
Zillow.com

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW. Trib pm TRIBUNE-REVIEW. Daily Courier Valley News Dispatch Valley LEADER & TIMES



PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

[Larger text](#) [Smaller text](#)



VA says official ran bakery on clock

By [Walter F. Roche Jr.](#)
PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Tuesday, July 20, 2010

A Department of Veterans Affairs official used government time and resources to run an Internet-based bakery called Shugga Mommas, selling "decadent" cakes and pies.

A report issued last week by the VA's Inspector General concluded the human resources administrator in the agency's central office in Washington used "official time and resources to conduct personal business during VA duty hours."

The report blacked out names, but its descriptions match those on a website for the suburban Washington-based Shugga Mommas. A VA administrator, Rasheeda J. Holdip, incorporated the firm in 2002, Maryland records show.

VA officials did not return phone calls or e-mails seeking comment.

The website and report describe Shugga Mommas as "a family business based in the Washington, D.C., area that has been baking delicious desserts together for generations. From our kitchen to yours, we create the best homemade cakes and pies on the Internet."

Holdip told investigators her VA boss, Rayshad Holmes, knew about her business and ordered goods from her, the report states.

Holmes, according to the report, denied buying baked goods from Holdip. He said he thought the business was a hobby.

Investigators found that Holdip repeatedly used her VA-issued BlackBerry to confirm orders and used her personal and VA e-mail accounts to conduct business during regular duty hours, including times when she was supposed to be teleworking from home.

"Our decadent desserts are made with the finest all-natural

About the writer

Walter F. Roche Jr. is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review staff writer can be reached at 412-320-7894 or via [e-mail](#).

Ways to get us



ADVERTISEMENT

TRIB LIVE | MOBILE WEB

News, Sports, Weather and more!

Have a link sent to your phone

m.triblive.com

[View all stories by date](#)

SPECIAL REPORTS

- [Killing Pittsburghers](#)
- [Dialysis failure](#)
- [N. Shore Connector](#)
- [Middle East reports](#)
- [How does Pgh rank?](#)

[All Special Reports](#)

MULTIMEDIA

[All Multimedia](#)

TRIB BLOGS

[All Blogs](#)

[News](#)

[Pittsburgh / Allegheny](#)

[Regional](#)

[Westmoreland](#)

[Fayette](#)

[State](#)

[Election](#)

[Nation](#)

[World](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Most Read Articles](#)

[Education](#)

[Lottery](#)

[Science News](#)

[Road Work](#)

[Middle East Reports](#)

[Photo Galleries](#)

[All Stories](#)

Most Read

Most E-mailed

Latest News

1. [Wolf Pack Park in Lower Burrell gets its bridge back at last](#)
2. [Orie ex-staffers testify they campaigned on state time](#)
3. [Boyfriend jailed on kidnapping charge in Derry Township](#)
4. ['Queen of Mean' Lisa Lampanelli to perform Sept. 18 at Heinz Hall](#)
5. [VA says official ran bakery on clock](#)
6. [More than half the county's homicides occur in Pittsburgh](#)
7. [Pittsburgh weighs water privatization](#)
8. [Sheraden slaying suspect to be arraigned today](#)
9. [Warrants: Political attacks threatened](#)
10. [Firms pitch building plans for Garden Theater area](#)

- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion & Commentary](#)
- [A & E](#)
- [Lifestyles](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Staff Blogs](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Mobile Edition](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Frank L. Craig, Editor](#)
- [Robert Fryer, Managing Editor](#)
- [Steve Adams, Multimedia Editor](#)
- [Newspapers in Education](#)
- [Customized RSS News Feeds](#)



[... More Feeds](#)

ingredients, and we never forget to include a healthy dose of love in all our creations. You can taste our passion for great cakes in every bite," Shugga Mommas' website boasts.

Neither Holmes nor Holdip responded to requests for comment.

The report cited Holmes for violating personnel rules by hiring Holdip. Holmes did not disclose to colleagues his prior relationship with Holdip and alerted her to the job opening in his division, the report said. It cites a statement from another VA administrator who concluded that Holmes should have recused himself from her hiring.

The bakery's incorporation records listed a home Holdip and her husband own as its corporate address. She incorporated another real estate management firm at the address.

Maryland revoked the charters of both firms for failure to file annual reports, but the businesses continued to operate.

More National headlines

- [Intelligence director nominee Clapper faces a grilling](#)
- [Digital movie locker 'UltraViolet' nears launch](#)
- [Democrats to give jobless benefits another vote](#)
- [Testing of cap to continue with anomalies unexplained](#)
- [Troops may leave Afghan war by 2014](#)
- [U.S. urges review of Lockerbie release](#)
- [Noprofits urge estate tax at '09 levels](#)

[Learn Jim Cramer's Trading Secrets](#)
 Look inside a former hedge fund manager's portfolio - for only \$1.
www.thestreet.com

[Farmers@ Auto Insurance - Official Site](#)
 Find discounts online and get a
Farmers.com

[Huge Discounts for Safe Drivers](#)
 Zero Tickets in 3 Years? You could Save up to \$500 on Auto Insurance
www.netquote.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent from Trib Total Media, Inc.

[Click here for advertising information](#) || [Advertiser List](#) || [About our ads](#)