

De la Torre to step down as head of Steward

CEO was under fire for bankrupt chain's failures

By Mark Arsenault and Jessica Bartlett
GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Ralph de la Torre, a former heart surgeon who built and became the face of Steward Health Care and its network of neglected hospitals, is stepping down from the company Tuesday and will no longer serve as board chairman and chief executive, the company said in a statement to the Globe Saturday.



Dr. Ralph de la Torre

►As Steward leaves Mass., uncertainty remains. B1

With his affinity for luxury yachts and corporate jets, de la Torre became a symbol of greed in for-profit health care, amid mounting stories this year of patients harmed by shortages of staff and critical supplies at Steward hospitals. De la Torre is believed to hold a majority of shares in the private company, which was one of the nation's largest for-profit, private health care systems, and is now being taken apart in bankruptcy proceedings.

A Steward spokesperson did not say on Saturday if de la Torre will remain a major shareholder in the company he helped found in Boston in 2010. De la Torre, the subject of several Globe Spotlight Team re-

DE LA TORRE, Page A6

Israel airstrike kills Hezbollah leader

Beirut attack may put conflict at crossroads

By Aaron Boxerman, Ronen Bergman, Patrick Kingsley, and Steve Lohr
NEW YORK TIMES

Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia, on Saturday confirmed the death of Hassan Nasrallah, its longtime leader, in a strike marking a major escalation of Israel's campaign against Iran's proxies in the Middle East.

The death of Nasrallah, after Israeli bombs flattened three apartment buildings near Beirut shielding what it said were Hezbollah's underground headquar-



VAHID SALEMI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah (pictured) was mourned during a rally in Tehran on Saturday.

ters, pushed Israel's war against Iran-backed forces into new territory. Iran has long sought to have the proxies — Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen — serve as the front line in its

HEZBOLLAH, Page A12

The Globe joined with Statista to recognize the region's top real estate brokerages. See the results in **Address, H20-21**.

State Police recruit Enrique Delgado-García was buried with ceremonial honors. B1.

It's fall, guy

Sunday: Clouds and sun. High: 63-68. Low: 54-59.

Monday: More sun. High: 66-71. Low: 54-59.

Complete report, **A24**.

Deaths, **A18-23**.

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A little Saturday night music

As "Saturday Night Live" begins its 50th season, the Globe's Mark Shanahan and Odie Henderson each share their top 10 musical picks, plus five unforgettable flops. **SundayArts, N1**.



Amjad Ismail, a lab technician at MCR Labs in Framingham, processed marijuana samples.

Testing the limits of cannabis testing

Mass. pot suppliers appear to be shopping around for best lab results

STORY BY DITI KOHLI AND SCOOTY NICKERSON | GLOBE STAFF

Holistic Industries knew its marijuana-growing facility in Massachusetts had a mold problem in 2020 and 2021. To sell its cannabis, Holistic had to have it tested under state health regulations aimed at keeping moldy marijuana off store shelves. The company figured out that a specific kind of lab test would still likely give its weed a passing score and asked the lab it hired to use those tests, Massachusetts cannabis regulators alleged this year.

The pot, despite smelling and tasting moldy, passed.

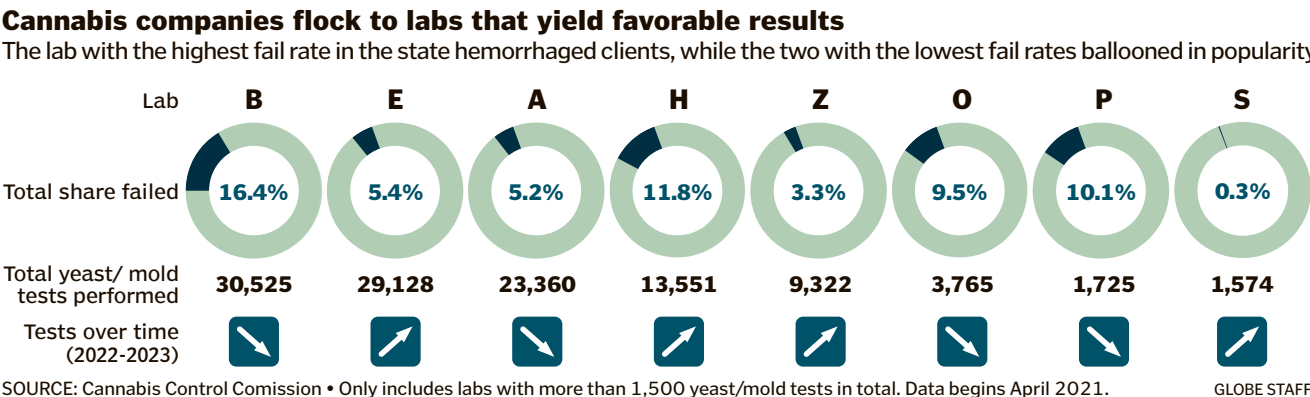
The Cannabis Control Commission investigated, and in April fined Holistic \$200,000 and mandated it test with a state-contracted lab. It was not enough. In August, Holistic cannabis showed up moldy in stores, another lab's tests showed, creating a potential public health hazard and highlighting lapses in the state's marijuana testing system that may place consumers at risk.

A fifth of Massachusetts residents now consume marijuana. Ingesting moldy cannabis repeatedly can lead to coughing, chest pain, chronic inflammation, and, in extreme instances, life-threatening lung infections.

A spokesman for the Maryland-based company said consumer safety is of "the utmost importance" and that, after a renovation, there is no active mold outbreak at Holistic's cultivation facility in Monson, just east of Springfield.

But can customers trust the labels on their cannabis products that proclaim them properly tested? No, a Globe

CANNABIS, Page A16



After ruling, fewer Black freshmen at top schools

By Hilary Burns and Neena Hagen
GLOBE STAFF

A year after a Supreme Court ruling ended race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions, Black first-year student enrollment dropped sharply at many top colleges across the nation, while Asian American first-year student enrollment, on average, ticked up slightly.

There were significant variations among the colleges, however — some

managed to roughly maintain diversity figures from previous years, while others lost a significant share of first-year students of color, a Boston Globe analysis of preliminary data from 30 of the nation's most competitive colleges found.

The share of Black first-year students enrolled at 11 of the most competitive schools in Massachusetts dropped, on average, about 40 percent compared with the average of the previous two

years, the Globe's analysis found. The Globe's list of most competitive schools is based on US News & World Report's ranking of the best national and liberal arts colleges.

The share of Black first-year students this year fell from 11 percent to 3 percent at Amherst College; from 14 percent to 5 percent at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; from 8.5 percent to 3 percent at Boston Uni-

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, Page A14

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