

In Steward's ruins, a lavish lifestyle

As company's losses mounted, CEO Ralph de la Torre increasingly used its cash as his own



This story was reported by Hanna Krueger, Jessica Bartlett, and Brendan McCarthy. It was written by Krueger and edited by McCarthy.

The hospital executive choked up at the press conference that February day in 2022, his eyes welling as he described his immigrant mother's story.

She was an orphan from Cuba who worked her way through nursing school. And now, her health care executive son, Ralph de la Torre, was honoring her legacy, making a \$10 million charitable pledge from his family foundation to fund a new science center in her name at the school outside Dallas his twin sons attend.

"What better than a woman, Hispanic, orphan that has made it in science," he said, his voice rising in crescendo. "As we all face challenges in life, we should all remember we can overcome

them."

Rosa Valdes had indeed lived out a kind of classic immigrant story, a determined rise to success fueled by talent, self-sacrifice, and pluck.

Her son's story was something else entirely — and the generous gift to the Greenhill School was a clue.

Millions donated to the school didn't come from Ralph de la Torre, or a family foundation, it came from Steward Health Care, the Boston-born company that he founded and grew to become one of the nation's largest private, for-profit hospital chains, records examined by the Globe show.

It was an outlay cash-

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ASHLEY BORG, GLOBE STAFF/ADOBE STOCK

Steward CEO Ralph de la Torre announced a **\$10 million** charitable pledge from his family foundation in order to fund a science center at his children's school. Steward, however, paid at least \$3 million of the pledge.

De la Torre routinely flew across the globe on the company's jets. Court filings show he was paid **\$161,020** for nonbusiness flights taken in the year before Steward declared bankruptcy.

Steward wired roughly **\$11.3 million** on de la Torre's behalf to secure and renovate a Madrid apartment. "It was a personal residence — full stop," said a person familiar with corporate operations.

A victor in race to face Warren

Deaton GOP winner; upset in Cambridge?

By Emma Platoff

GLOBE STAFF

In an otherwise quiet primary election in Massachusetts on Tuesday, a political newcomer claimed an unexpected upset over a longtime incumbent in Cambridge while a lawyer with backing from the cryptocurrency industry decisively won the Republican nomination to take on Elizabeth Warren for the US Senate in November.

John Deaton, a personal injury lawyer who is also a

► **MacKay declares victory over incumbent Decker. B1.**

newcomer to Massachusetts and its political scene, handily won the Republican primary for Senate in one of the few contested races on the state ballot.

Meanwhile, a longtime state representative, Democrat Marjorie Decker of Cambridge, appeared poised for defeat — a stunning result in a state where incumbents are rarely challenged and even more rarely lose.

"Our movement has won this election," her challenger, graduate student and organizer Evan MacKay, told their supporters, declaring victory. With the race still uncalled, Decker did not explicitly concede the race, nor did she call MacKay, but seemed to come close in an emotional speech.

"I'm not going away, trust me," Decker said in her speech, pledging to help elect

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FACE PAINTING



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Artist Lauren YS worked on an 85-foot-wide mural in downtown Providence honoring two overlooked chapters of the city's history: its lost Chinatown and the contributions of LGBTQ+ communities. "This project felt like it was specifically invented for me," YS said. **B1.**

Russian missiles hit military academy

More than 50 dead in one of war's deadliest attacks

By David Guttenfelder, Yurii Shyvala, and Maria Varenikova

NEW YORK TIMES

Russian missiles struck a military academy in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday only minutes after air-raid alarms blared, killing more than 50 people, wounding many others, and underscoring Moscow's superior firepower in one of the war's deadliest attacks. Ukraine's president said a hospital was also hit.

Rescue workers in the eastern city of Poltava described scenes of dismembered bodies pulled from the rubble of the school, which Ukrainian news outlets identified as the Poltava Institute of Military Communications.

The entire area was littered with shattered glass, with nearby high-rises missing windows and doors. By some accounts more than 200 people suffered injuries, overwhelming hospitals.

Denys Kliap, the 26-year-old director of Free and Unbreakable, a volunteer emergency response team, was asleep when the first blast rocked him out of bed. "As soon as it happened, we went straight to the site," Kliap said. "When we arrived, the only thing I remember was the pile of bodies scattered all over the territory of

UKRAINE, Page A10

Glimcher stepping down at Dana-Farber

Made mark as first woman leader, and chose to end Brigham partnership

By Larry Edelman

GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher, chief executive of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, said she would step down next month, ending an eight-year run capped by her surprise announcement to end its long-running partnership with Brigham and Women's Hospital and instead build a cancer center with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Benjamin L. Ebert, chair of Dana-Farber's medical oncology department and a prize-winning researcher, will take over from Glimcher on Oct. 1, the Boston institute said in a statement Tuesday. In his current role, Ebert oversees more than half of Dana-Farber's 556 faculty members and more than 80 research laboratories.

Glimcher, a highly regarded immunologist, will stay at Dana-Farber to continue her work in the lab she oversees and mentor the institute's physicians and scientists.

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Double positive

Wednesday: Beautiful. High 74-79. Low 58-63.

Thursday: Another one. High 71-76. Low 58-63.

Sunrise: 6:13 Sunset: 7:12

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

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Democratic leaders unveiled a deal that would dramatically expand the number of liquor licenses in Boston, agreeing to add 225 over three years. **B1.**

With workers on strike, hotel guests had to put up with a few inconveniences — and plenty of noise. B5.

Job hunting is heating up as hiring is cooling off. B5.

It's a big month for restaurant openings, and Devra First has her 10 picks for the ones to look forward to. **G1.**

Red tape hampers state's program to put homeless in apartments

By Samantha J. Gross and Mike Damiano

GLOBE STAFF

A key program Massachusetts uses to find long-term housing for homeless families is so backed up and laden with red tape that some applicants are missing out on vacant apartments because landlords have gotten fed up with waiting and dropped out, several advocates told the Globe.

The state program, called HomeBASE, pairs homeless families with landlords who have vacant units and then subsidiz-

es rent and other expenses for up to three years. State officials consider it a crucial pressure release valve for the overburdened shelter system, which is straining to accommodate thousands of families as new migrant families continue to arrive.

HomeBASE, however, was not built to accommodate the level of need that exists in Massachusetts, fueled in large part by the migrant crisis. Created in 2011, HomeBASE was designed to help homeless families transition out of emergency shelter and provide housing to those at

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