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Spotlight.



Snitch City • Part 3

The raw end of a deal with the police

BY DUGAN ARNETT | GLOBE STAFF

'Whatever they said, I would do it.'
Inside the shrinking world of one confidential informant.

He calls every few days, from a cramped cell inside a Massachusetts prison. He talks about his past, his days playing football or basketball at the playground. He'll talk about the present, the endless hours spent watching movies on his prison-issued tablet, the shortcomings of his New England Patriots. And often, he'll muse about the future, picturing his final moments and how the payback might come.

The plunge of a knife? A savage beating?

Since the first death threat — just after moving to a new prison unit — he has accepted that he might not make it out alive. So he follows his own safety protocol of sorts: He won't share his name with other inmates, is vague if asked about his hometown. Every night, without fail, he watches as the prison's new arrivals are marched through his unit.

He studies faces: Whom does he recognize? Who might recognize him? Who could know about the label he bears?

Snitch. Rat. Informant.

This nightly ritual of survival stems from a decision he made several years ago, in the back of a New Bedford police station. He'd been arrested for drugs and desperate to avoid jail time. The police who nabbed him knew all about him, his affiliation with a local street gang, his past arrests, and the stakes at play.

Trust us, the detectives said. Help us. We can make your case go away.

He'd had a choice, of course. But he said it didn't feel, at least in that moment, like much of one. And so he took the deal, signed a paper, and joined the ranks of confidential law enforcement informants, becoming the latest local foot soldier in the nation's endless drug war.

He didn't know then that his work would never be done. That even though he played by the rules, provided information he said led to arrests, did what was asked of him again and

SNITCH CITY, Page A12

As Steward reels, ex-boss rides off into the sunset

Hangs with equestrian elite as collapse reverberates

This story was reported and written by Hanna Krueger and Elizabeth Koh. It was edited by Brendan McCarthy.



FOLLOW-UP

WELLINGTON, Fla. — Ralph de la Torre sat outside a horse stable on a Friday morning earlier this month, pulled heavily on a cigar, and did his best to blend into the landscape of the equestrian elite.

The onetime Boston cardiac surgeon wunderkind and former CEO of America's most embattled hospital chain was clad in cowboy boots, dark shades, and distressed jeans. He appeared relaxed, at home, even, among the immaculate horses and multi-thousand-dollar bedazzled saddles at the Global Dressage Festival.

But beyond the white gates of the competition grounds, the consequences of his reign atop Steward Health Care continue to ricochet across the world.

He had resigned as CEO last October amid the implosion, bankruptcy, and distress sale of the

DE LA TORRE, Page A17

Josh Kraft, forged by family bonds

Wealth, power, and distinct roles for siblings

By Mark Arsenault
GLOBE STAFF

Running for mayor of Boston occasionally requires standing beneath a drop ceiling in some old community hall with festive helium balloons floating motionless in the still air, and trying to look natural while your friends say beautiful things about you to a room full of strangers.

Josh Kraft presumes they were saying beautiful things. His campaign stop at the Haitian Adult Day Center in Dorchester took place almost entirely in Haitian Creole. Kraft didn't understand much after *bonjour*.

During his turn with the mic, he spoke very briefly, in English, in his unassuming style, pledging never to forget the Haitian community.

"Mer-cee bo-coop!" he concluded, gamely, for a nice applause.

And then the real campaigning began. Kraft smoothly wound through the narrow gaps between the tables, greeting each of the hundred or so attendees individually,

KRAFT, Page B8

Harvard shook up its Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Yale removed a pro-Palestinian staff member amid pressure from Washington.
Metro, B1.

The US women are poised to take over after Alysa Liu's victory at the World Figure Skating Championships.
Sports, C1.

Drear-view mirror

Sunday: Cloudy, damp. High: 40-45. Low: 38-43.

Monday: Cloudy, milder. High: 61-66. Low: 41-46.

Complete report, **A24.**
Deaths, **A18-22.**

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