

FOCUS ON HEALING

Atascosita kicker looks to help others with mental health. **PAGE C1**



SUNDAY

OFFSHORE IS BACK

Production in Gulf reaching record highs. **PAGE B1**



INSPIRED DESIGN

Ismaili Center in Houston embraces tradition, modernity. **PAGE G1**

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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Audit finds problems with police OT

Report on some of top earners raises questions on HPD financial oversight

By **Caroline Ghisolfi and Matt deGrood**
STAFF WRITERS

Houston Police Department auditors examining two dozen of the agency's top earners of overtime pay in 2022 found that they could not fully account for how most of the officers spent their time, noting some divisions within the

department weren't following policy on how to record hours worked.

The report raises questions about financial oversight at HPD, which has faced persistent overtime overages and is projected to exceed its \$1.1 billion budget for the current fiscal year — and comes as HPD's 5,400 officers work under a new contract that guarantees



Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle file photo
City Controller Chris Hollins said HPD exceeded its overtime budget by \$26 million in fiscal year 2025.

them more overtime pay.

The audit, written in October 2024 but not released to the Houston Chronicle until this year, identified 26 HPD officers who earned more than \$70,000 in overtime in the city's 2022 fiscal year. Among their findings:

Auditors could not verify some or all of the hours worked by 20 of the 26 officers because different HPD divisions recorded time worked differently and many weren't follow-

ing policy on how to record it.

HPD divisions aren't always sharing overtime data with each other when an officer works for a different division on an assignment.

In at least one case, auditors found that an overtime record was filed on behalf of an officer who hadn't worked the listed time — because the document listed the wrong officer.

Police continues on A11

As construction costs balloon, nonprofit adopts a new formula that could reshape affordable housing — modular homes



Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle
Workers prepare a Habitat for Humanity modular home to be lifted onto its foundation on March 31 in Houston's Fifth Ward.

Detention center is costing millions

By **Dug Begley**
STAFF WRITER

The Trump administration's politically divisive decision to detain and house immigrant families in Texas is costing at least \$13.1 million per month, plus an additional \$2.5 million for medical care, even as the population at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center ebbs and flows.

Most of that money is going to CoreCivic, the company providing everything from security to medical care to box lunches at the facility southwest of San Antonio. Through an agreement that lets the federal government contract with a state, city or county, CoreCivic, the site's landowner and the city of Dilley can make approximately \$15.6 million a

Center continues on A9

Special delivery for Habitat

By **R.A. Schuertz**
STAFF WRITER

The home arrived at 7:45 a.m. after spending the night in Baytown.

As the sun rose on March 31, it waited, not because it had to, but because Houston Habitat for Humanity's donors wanted to be present when it was delivered and installed.

It was wrapped like a present, split neatly into two extra-wide truckloads, each half enclosed in a sheet of white plastic. So the driver could see



Jill Karnicki/Houston Chronicle
Habitat for Humanity is having homes built inside a factory and shipped to Houston to cut costs.

around the house as it was hauled down the highway from Carthage, side mirrors reached far out from either side of the cab, like Mr. Potato Head arms.

Construction costs for a new single-family home have risen over 50% since January 2019, according to census estimates. The costs of land, materials, labor and insurance have all increased. The nonprofit Houston Habitat for Humanity has long created affordable homeownership opportunities.

Homes continues on A7



CHRONICLE CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF PUBLISHING

In celebration of the Houston Chronicle's 125th birthday, we are publishing stories from our archives on Sundays through December. In today's edition, look for our special section on major events in the city's history. Read about Houston's founding, the Chronicle's 125-year history and the city's notorious scandals. **K1**

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