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50 cents

DATE WITH DESTINY

Destiny's Child brings its farewell tour to American Airlines Center on Sunday.

GUIDE

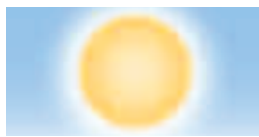


Greatest Aggie QB?

How will the Aggies remember Reggie McNeal? His legacy could extend beyond wins and losses.

SPORTSDAY, IC

Hot



High: 100 Low: 78
5-day outlook, 2B

COMING SUNDAY

Does race color jury selection?

Dallas County prosecutors reject black prospective jurors at higher rates than whites, and their defense adversaries exclude whites more often than blacks. Both sides employ these tactics despite U.S. Supreme Court bans on race bias in jury selection.

NATION

BTK murderer gets life times 10

BTK serial killer Dennis Rader was sentenced to 10 consecutive life terms during an emotional hearing in which relatives of his victims said he should be "thrown in a deep, dark hole and left to rot." 9A

Sheehan leaves war protest site

Cindy Sheehan left her anti-war vigil near President Bush's ranch to be with her ailing mother. 12A

METRO

D'Angelo Lee faces 2 complaints

Two ethics complaints have been filed with the city against Plan Commissioner D'Angelo Lee, who said he will cooperate with the investigation. 1B

SPORTSDAY

Coaches take aim at staph infections

North Texas high school coaches are taking precautions this season after four football players got staph infections. 2A

\$1 million pledged against steroids

Major League Baseball pledged \$1 million to the Taylor Hooton Foundation, a Plano-based anti-steroid organization. 16C

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Gaza holdouts evicted in synagogue clashes

Israeli troops expel hundreds while pelted with acid, other objects



DAMIR SAGOLJ/Reuters

In the Neve Dekalim settlement, a Jewish boy glares through the glass at Gaza's largest synagogue, where Israeli soldiers wrestled for hours with about 1,500 holdouts who linked arms in a human chain of aggressive resistance.

Kicking protesters dragged out as all but 3 settlements cleared

From Wire Reports

KFAR DAROM, Gaza Strip — Riot troops stormed synagogues in two hard-line Jewish settlements Thursday to evict hundreds of militant holdouts who locked arms in a human chain and pelted soldiers with acid, oil and sand, the most violent clashes in Israel's historic Gaza pullout.

By the close of the day, 14,000 unarmed forces had cleared all but three of Gaza's 21 settlements, facing down resistance to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to cede Gaza to the Palestinians and alter the course of Mideast peacemaking.

Dozens of protesters at Kfar Darom sequestered themselves behind razor wire on the synagogue roof, at first singing and waving flags, then attacking soldiers below with their arsenal of caustic liquids and objects, including paint-filled lightbulbs.



DAVID SILVERMAN/Getty Images

Israeli riot police prepare to be lifted to a synagogue's roof in Kfar Darom, where dozens of protesters took up positions behind razor wire in an effort to repel soldiers.

Editorial, 24A

Police and soldiers stripped off their clothes after being doused. Comrades poured water on their heads and torsos to wash them.

This settlement, the oldest in the Gaza Strip and one of the

most militant, produced scenes of violence and raw emotion that the Israeli government had wanted to avoid. The storming of the settlement's only synagogue was covered live on Israeli television.

About 160 young protesters, who had prepared themselves for assault with the advice of a reserve colonel, Moshe Leshem, held off the unarmed police officers for 2½ hours at the synagogue. To take control, the police used a water cannon, fire extinguishers, cranes, wire cutters and special forces.

Breaking the siege, army cranes lowered metal cages filled with helmeted troops onto the roof, as cannons sprayed protesters with blasts of blue-tinted water. Other troops carrying wire cutters climbed ladders that became slick with oil.

At Neve Dekalim, troops wrestled for hours against about 1,500 extremists making their last stand inside Gaza's largest synagogue. Protesters lay on the floor with their arms linked, kicking against the Israeli forces while supporters held their shoulders in a tug-of-war.

After breaking the human chain, troops dragged protesters out one by one, holding them by their arms and legs as they twisted and squirmed.

See FORCES Page 17A

"I'm standing here without any fear that Israelis will shoot at me because their battle today is against themselves."

Mohammed Bashir, a Palestinian farmer in the town of Deir al-Balah in the Gaza Strip

Site intends to keep deadly driver locked up

Effort counters parole bid of man who killed 4 while drunk at wheel

By DAVE MICHAELS

Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — The suffering of Rickey Carter's victims did not end with his conviction. And his infamy continues even after his banishment to prison.

Mr. Carter, who killed four girls while driving drunk in Parker County in 1998, is back in the public domain. A new Web site urges the Texas Board of Pardons and



The attorney for Rickey Carter says it's unfair to demonize his client.

Created by a Republican activist from Weatherford with the support of the victims' families, the site features a haunting picture of a frowning Mr. Carter screened over the image of the crumpled car driven by one of the

girls. The home page at www.kepprickycarterinajail.com reads: "A Deadly Drunk Driver May Be Paroled From Jail If We Don't Act Now!"

The site is an attempt to increase public awareness about a parole case, which in Texas involves a secretive process in which board members do not even meet to cast their votes. Janelle Shepard, the Web site's creator, is asking visitors to write letters to the parole board to protest Mr. Carter's application for parole.

"It has been almost therapeutic for everyone," said Ms. Shepard, a former chairwoman of the Parker

County GOP who also is an emergency-room nurse. "It's a story of sadness but also one we want to talk about."

Liz Osina, the mother of one of the victims, said Ms. Shepard's help is a blessing. Horrified by a letter that told her Mr. Carter could be released, Ms. Osina did not know how to warn people or get their help, she said.

So Ms. Osina wrote an e-mail to some friends, asking that they forward it. Within a day, Ms. Shepard had received it and offered to put together a Web site.

See DEATHS Page 18A

Little creation, big step

UTD team's chemical ribbons could assist many high-tech dreams

By SUE GOETINCK AMBROSE

Science Writer

Scientists from the University of Texas at Dallas have spun yards of chemical ribbons that are lighter than a feather but stronger than steel — a significant advance in the rapidly growing field of nanotechnology.

The development could lead to a host of high-tech applications that scientists have dreamed of but haven't had an easy way to create: futuristic clothes that light up, store energy or blunt bullets; car doors that are ultra light and extra strong and double as batteries to store solar energy; flexible, filmy light bulbs that are thinner than a human hair; artificial muscles for robots; and solar sails to propel space vehicles.

A report describing the chemical ribbons, created from tiny carbon tubes barely visible to the human eye, appears in today's issue of the journal *Science*.

"This is a big deal, a real big deal," James Tour, a chemist at Rice University in Houston, said of the new study. "Every paragraph is a gold mine."

The ribbons are created from carbon nanotubes, filaments about one-five-thousandth the width of a human hair. At the atomic level, the nanotubes look like cylinders of chicken wire. Because the nanotubes, like diamonds, are made entirely of carbon, they are extraordinarily strong. They also conduct electricity.

See UTD Page 2A

Cuba: an island of despair

Castro regime professes hope, but basic services are abysmal, many say

By TRACEY EATON

Staff Writer

HAVANA, Cuba — At the risk of being devoured by sharks, Juan Carlos is secretly preparing to escape Cuba by boat.

"I've had enough," said the 32-year-old cook, who earns less than \$15 a month. "When I get home from work, there's no electricity, no water and no gas. I swat mosquitoes all night, then get up at 6 to go to work again. If you were in my shoes, I guarantee you'd leave, too, even if you had to climb into a bedpan and paddle to Florida."

The socialist government that Washington has spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to topple is on the brink again. Not because of a lack of human rights or democracy, but because of something as simple as keeping the lights on and providing basic services, according to an August report by the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies.

"Deteriorating economic, health and living conditions" in Cuba, the report warns, are "dangerously similar" to the circumstances that sparked the 1994 rafters crisis, when 30,790 Cubans fled to the United States.

See EXPERTS Page 11A



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