



Texans flying high

Houston takes sole possession of the AFC South lead with a 16-10 win over Indianapolis and now have the inside track to its third division title in five years.

Details in Sports/A8



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Education

TORS' A/V HISTORY CLUB



Stuart Villanueva/The Daily News

Galveston Ball senior Charles King speaks into the microphone at the KTOR studio at the school Friday.

Ball High flagship station helps spruce up radio history feature

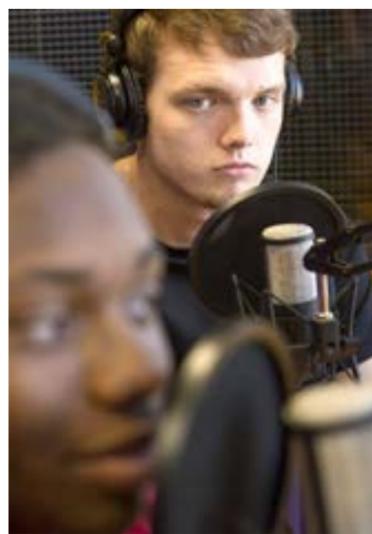
By **JOSEPH BAUCUM**
The Daily News

Since 2007, multiple stations across the United States have aired Time Rewind, a one-minute this day in history radio feature covering news and pop culture, but on Dec. 2, the program's creator, David Mendel,

named one location his flagship: The Galveston Independent School District's Ball High School.

Each edition of Time Rewind includes narration from Mendel on the given day's historical significance. It also incorporates

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Stuart Villanueva/The Daily News
Galveston Ball senior Hunter Criswell participates in a live broadcast test at the KTOR studio.

Open handgun carry law

'Safety the key'

More signing up for certification courses, gun range employee says

By **JOSEPH BAUCUM**
The Daily News

Within the past two months, enrollment has jumped considerably in the certification courses for concealed carry at the Clear Creek Gun Range in League City.

Chris Sanchez, assistant manager of the range's firing line, ascribes the increase to two factors: the ability at the start of next year to openly carry a handgun in Texas and the recent attacks connected to the Islamic State in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif.

Combined, the two components have piqued a greater interest in gun ownership among the public, Sanchez said. People want to feel more secure and not have to depend on others for protection, he explained, which he said shouldn't be construed as a jab at law enforcement.

"I love the police, and I think they're great," Sanchez said. "But at the end of the day, they usually arrive after there are victims."

The range holds license courses four days a week, three of those Friday to Sunday. A maximum of 16 students can enroll in each class, but employees try to keep it at 15, Sanchez said.

See handguns on page A4

Previously

Emotions mixed on open handgun carry, Part I: Many are unsure of what to make of the law that will take effect on Jan. 1. Part 1 was Sunday and read it on galvnews.com

More education news in B section.

An art teacher who was unable to achieve her 20-year dream before her retirement in January 2013, has now gotten a chance to make that "dream deferred" into reality. She recently unveiled "A Walk through History," a historical art mural, at Central Middle School.



Law enforcement

Police see spike in domestic violence calls during holidays

Experts say to find stress relievers and remember perfection doesn't exist

By **CHACOUR KOOP**
The Daily News

Rather than stockings hung with care and visions of sugarplum fairies, the dream of merry holidays can sometimes turn into a time of stress and depression.

It's also a time police respond to a spike in domestic violence calls.

There's a reason for all this, and a few strategies could help relieve tense conflicts, making the season more joyful, experts say.

Unrealistic expectations often fuel depression, said Derek Neal, assistant professor of psychiatry at University of Texas Medical Branch.

"We say 'Happy Holidays and Mer-

ry Christmas' and the expectation is everybody is perfectly fine, and if you're not happy, there's something wrong with you," Neal said. "You try to get yourself into the spirit by overloading for the holidays."

Neal suggests tamping down expectations, remaining flexible and delegating tasks during the busy sea-

son — don't be afraid to ask a family member to clean the dishes, for example.

Another pitfall: Stifling negative emotions simply because of an unrealistic belief we must constantly be happy throughout the holidays, Neal

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Today's weather



72 Cloudy with a 60% chance of rain » **A10**
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Inside

While flounder and flatfish are in the limelight, other fish are competing for attention, Joe Kent writes » **A10**

NEWS

Washington
In budget deal, health law foes took different path

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

Republican foes of President Barack Obama's health care law may be able to get more by chipping away at it than trying to take the whole thing down at once.

Experts say that's the lesson from the budget deal Congress passed and the president signed last week.

The deal delayed a widely criticized tax on high-cost employer coverage that hasn't taken effect yet. And it temporarily suspended two taxes on industry that are already being collected.

In contrast to frontal attacks on "Obamacare" that have repeatedly failed, this tactic could well succeed. Delays and suspensions have a way of becoming permanent.

Polls show that the public remains deeply divided over the Affordable Care Act, or ACA. Opponents are already looking for other provisions that could be separated from the law.

Next could be the "employer mandate," a requirement that larger companies offer coverage or risk fines. Part of the mandate is a controversial definition of a full-time worker as someone who averages 30 hours a week. Critics say it discourages companies from hiring full-time employees.

Supporters of the health care law are trying to downplay the consequences of the budget deal as superficial. It did not touch coverage provisions that have reduced the nation's uninsured rate to a historic low of 9 percent. Indeed, Obama himself announced that 6 million people have already signed up for 2016 coverage, with more than a month left in open-enrollment season.

"They took this notion of a partnership between a professional audio production and a school and showed me that it could go to a level that I hadn't envisioned at first."

David Mendel

creator of Time Rewind, a one-minute this day in history radio feature covering news and pop culture

BALL HIGH

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audio such as President John F. Kennedy's address to the nation on the Cuban Missile Crisis or the top song from two decades ago.

Just as most nationally syndicated radio shows call one location home, Mendel wanted to promote a single site as the base for Time Rewind. Ball High School deserved that designation, he said.

In March, the school integrated Time Rewind into The Express, a five-to-six-minute video produced by students in the Ball High Media Arts and Digital Technology Magnet Community. The Express acts as the school's daily announcements. It's shot in a vein similar to a newscast with one student, Alex Ramirez, serving as anchor. In addition to the announcements, it also includes spots for random facts and tongue twisters.

When The Express first aired Time Rewind, the segment only displayed the Time Rewind logo while the feature played. Since then, it has been spruced up. It now displays images to augment Mendel's narration. Whenever audio plays, video is synced up to match.

The effect was not lost on Mendel. "They took this notion of a partnership between a professional audio production and a school and showed me that it could go to a level that I hadn't envisioned at first," he said.

With many students enjoying Time Rewind at Ball High School, Mendel, a Houston resident, has made sure to visit the school on multiple occasions, Ball High Media Arts Coach Mike Dudas said.

Mendel also watches



Stuart Villanueva/The Daily News

Galveston Ball High School has begun live broadcasts of KTOR, the school radio station. KTOR has become the flagship station for the Time Rewind program.

The Express every day, Dudas said. The district website features each day's edition. After viewing the student video production, Mendel, who majored in broadcast journalism at Boston College and worked for decades in various roles at multiple news stations, will offer his critiques and suggestions.

"He's a trusted friend to the school and the district," Dudas said.

Mendel visited the school's Tor Nation Studios on Wednesday to help inaugurate its new student Internet radio station, KTOR, with a live broadcast of Time Rewind.

As part of its contract as the flagship, Ball High School will play the daily edition of Time Rewind on KTOR at least once each day. Listeners can ac-

cess KTOR from the district website. The station can also be heard through a smartphone app.

Almost every student who listens in will learn something new, Dudas said.

"One day it covered the New Coke debut, which kids today are not aware of," he said. "A lot of students don't even know that President Ronald Reagan was shot."

Over the course of the school year, two Ball High juniors, Miles Nepomuceno and Cristian Arieta, will intern for Mendel. Nepomuceno will assist in aggregating new information to use in future Time Rewind editions. Arieta will help with promoting the program through social media.

Nepomuceno also acts as the Time Rewind editor for The Express.

He is responsible for finding photos and video to sync with the feature. Nepomuceno admits he easily gets distracted, but if he sits down and focuses, he can edit one edition of Time Rewind in 10 minutes, he said.

After finishing high school, Nepomuceno plans to study computer engineering at college. Entering the media arts field as a director or editor is also a possible career ambition, he said. Regardless of which direction he chooses, the opportunity to work with The Express and intern for Mendel has been worth the experience, he said.

"There's a lot of facts," he said. "It helps me get more knowledge, and it's really fun and enjoyable. I feel like I'm going back in time and learning about the past."

Moving forward, Mendel hopes to establish connections with more schools. His latest affiliate is the Mesquite Independent School District's 61,000-watt KEOM, which broadcasts throughout the Dallas-Ft. Worth market. He hopes all newcomers look at how Ball High students elevated Time Rewind and find other ways to expand the feature.

In the end, Mendel believes it will all make for a more captivating educational experience.

"It's one thing to tell a student about what happened in history," he said. "It's another thing to bring it to life."

Contact reporter Joseph Baucum at 409-683-5237 or joseph.baucum@galvnews.com. Follow him on Twitter @baucum_joseph.

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