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INSIDE TODAY

Boy recovering after fall

A boy, 2, who fell to the ground from a second-story window is expected to make a full recovery, authorities said Saturday/A3.

Tour of Italy



Take six independent, self-sufficient, A-type personality women, put them in Tuscany, Italy, and what do you get? A wonderful experience and great friendships that will last a lifetime/C1.

Reel Report



For the average angler who is interested in taking that trout of a lifetime, this is an excellent time to hit the water/A8.

Index

Bulletin Board.....B2  
Comics.....B6  
Crossword.....B6  
Lifestyle .....C1  
Lotto .....A2  
Movies .....C5  
Obituaries .....D4  
Opinion .....B4  
Sports .....A6  
TV Listings.....B6

Inside

Galveston .....B1  
La Marque .....A6  
Santa Fe .....B1  
Texas City .....A3

Weather



Today's forecast:  
Mostly cloudy  
High: 72  
Low: 62  
Details: A8



# AGE AND ALCOHOL

Story by **BRONWYN TURNER** / Correspondent

**TRENDS:** A high-profile grand jury indictment last month set off a debate — Is underage drinking in a controlled environment really that big a problem, and, if so, what should parents be doing instead?

Chief LeeRoy Amador, of the Galveston Independent School District Police, was a highway patrolman for more than 25 years, all too often called to notify parents their teenager had been killed in an alcohol-related accident.

Lt. Marc Decatur, of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in law enforcement since 1985, has been on many raids of underage drinking parties, seeing fashion-conscious teen girls with vomit in their hair. He's also investigated tragic alcohol poisonings.

Dr. Robert Chapman, consultant and educator based in Philadelphia, has been on the receiving end of a 2 a.m. call after a raid on a drinking party at a local hotel. He told the policeman, "If my daughter was drinking, I want you to arrest her. I want her to realize there is that consequence."

Dr. Peter Delany, research director in Maryland, has studied drinking in young teens, with disturbing findings. An estimated 709,000 youths in the U.S. aged 12 to 14 drank alcohol in the past month, with a vast majority of them (93.4 percent) getting their alcohol for free the last time they drank. More than 300,000 of the young teens got it at home or from family.

All four men are experts in their fields, dealing with the impact of underage drinking. All are also parents.

After last month's misdemeanor indictment accusing a county official of providing alcohol to a group

See **UNDERAGE/A5**

## What do Daily News readers think?

Here's a sampling of reader comments online at [galvnews.com](http://galvnews.com).

"With parental supervision, or parental consent for another adult to supervise (underage drinking) can be OK. But without the parents' knowledge, no."

"I think it's wrong maybe 90 percent of the time. We're probably arguing over that 10 percent where I think it might be OK."

"We have no problem with training and arming kids for war yet we have a problem with giving them a beer?"

"What are the circumstances? What behaviors and values are the parents modeling for the child? Is the teenager safe and being cared for?"

"Parents allowing children to drink doesn't always result in moderate alcohol use by those children when they are grown."

"If parents are providing alcohol to kids, they are drinking too. How can you trust that judgment and supervision?"

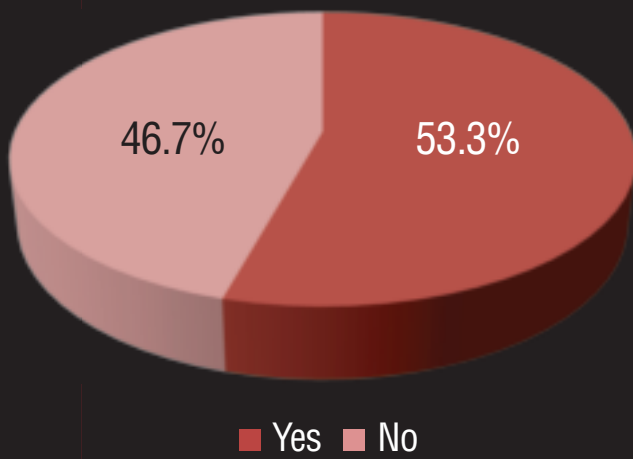
"It's not wrong, it's just illegal."

## Inside

- What does the law say about underage drinking | **A5**.
- Advice from the experts to parents | **A5**.
- Guest columnists Jeff Temple, Kathryn Cunningham and Mary Beth Trevino address the issue of alcohol and spring break | **A4**.

## We asked, you answered

In an online, nonscientific poll, The Daily News asked readers: "Do you think underage drinking with adult supervision is OK? Yes or No." With 320 votes in, here are the results.



## Coogs fall in state final

In the Class 4A state championship game, the Cougars met their match in a 78-64 loss to the state's top-ranked team, Dallas Kimball, at the Frank Erwin Center.



ERICH SCHLEGEL/For The Daily News

La Marque players line up for their second-place medals after losing to Dallas Kimball in the UIL boys basketball Class 4A finals at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin on Saturday.

**SPORTS/A6**

## Bills in House propose overhaul of TWIA

**INSURANCE:** Mandatory flood coverage, restrictions on lawsuits among proposals

By **MICHAEL A. SMITH**  
The Daily News

Major changes, including mandatory flood coverage and sharp restrictions against lawsuits over claims, could be in store

for property owners who buy windstorm insurance through an association that manages a pool of high-risk coastal policies.

Two bills proposing an

See **TWIA/A3**