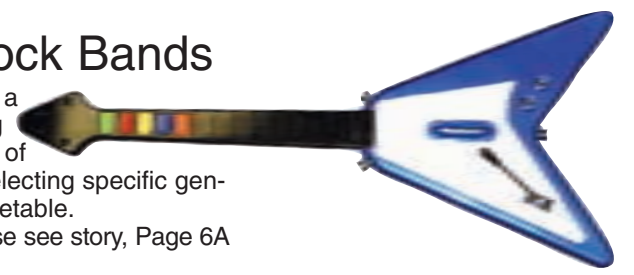


# UNDERAGE PAGE

## Guitar Heroes, Rock Bands

• With the economy screeching to a near-halt, video games are starting to turn off consumers. The makers of Guitar Hero and Rock Band are selecting specific genres to make the games more marketable.

— Please see story, Page 6A



# Are you prepared for TAKS season?

## Quick tips to help you make the grade

BY SAMANTHA STAPPER  
BELTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

High school and middle school students have to deal with TAKS tests. To help prepare, I've come up with handy strategies and instructions to help prepare for the test.

One thing that always helps me before TAKS is to study. I don't mean cram everything in the night before the test; I mean go over

everything during the days and weeks before the test. Review each part a little bit every day. Trust me, studying helps immensely.

Another thing that helps prepare is to set out all of your materials, supplies, lunch, an outfit, everything the night before. Get it all together so you don't have to worry about forgetting something later on.

Don't forget to pack your favorite lunch the night before! It always

helps me to get through the first part of the day knowing that a delicious lunch is on the way.

One of the most important details is to go to bed on time! I don't want you to go to bed at 1 or 2 in the morning! If you do that, who knows how you'll do on the test? Aim to go to bed at least before 10 p.m. That way you still receive around 8 or more hours of sleep! A good rest leads up to a good day!

In the morning, a healthy breakfast filled with protein and nutrients will be a great way to start the day. Oh, and don't forget to dress comfortably! Wear your favorite sweats, hoodie, T-shirt, whatever makes you feel comfy.

Now for the last instruction: When you walk into class on test day make sure you are prepared and have these supplies:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils
- A pink pearl eraser
- A hand-held sharpener
- Highlighters to highlight important information

### Remaining Test Dates

April 6, 7, and 9  
April 27— May 2

A bottle of water and a snack (if your teacher allows it)  
A book that interests you for when you are finished with the test  
I hope these instructions help you to get prepared for the big day!  
Good luck and try your best!



Illustration by Jonathan McGinnis

# Should teens be behind the wheel?

## Local teen gives her opinion on the subject

BY ARIANE FLORES  
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

With states such as New Jersey bumping up the driving age from 16 to 17, the debate rages on about whether teenagers are capable of being out on the roads.

True, inexperience is a major factor that leads to crashes involving teens; however, if you raise the driving age, then how are they supposed to gain experience when you prolong their chances to get behind the wheel?

"Immaturity and inexperience both contribute to crashes. It's hard to untangle the two," said Anne Fleming, spokeswoman for the industry-funded Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in a study presented to state transportation officials at a meeting in Arizona.

Maturity is defined as "the state of being mature; full development; perfected condition," according to dictionary.com. While people such as Fleming justly argue the maturity levels of teenagers, especially when it come to driving. This argument takes into account not only the life of the driver, but the lives of the passengers, as well as every vehicle around them. However, Fleming fails to recognize driving is one of the many important milestones in a teenager's life. Revoking that privilege only succeeds in planting the seed of doubt that teenagers aren't responsible enough to do much of anything.

If teens aren't "mature" enough to operate a vehicle, then surely they can't possibly be mature enough to hold down a job, maintain high grades, do community service or even

### Teen Commentary

graduate. The whole idea of teenagers not being mature enough to drive at 16 is ludicrous.

True, there are numerous statistics out there proving that fatality rates are highest amongst teen drivers; however, that has nothing to do with individual maturity. It has more to do with the experience level of the driver. According to the Analysis and Prevention Web site, "Crashes are more common among young drivers than any other age group. In the United States, one in four crash fatalities involve someone 16 to 24 years old nearly twice as high as other age groups."

Yet, if states continue to bump the driving age up a few years, then that age bracket is going to change from 16- to 24-year-olds, to 18- to 26-year-olds. The fact of the matter is, teenagers need the opportunity to gain the required experience needed when getting behind the wheel. When lives are at stake, the solution isn't to prolong the process. States can start with increasing the parental-supervised hours needed for teens taking driving classes at home.

They can also begin by making driving classes more detailed and affordable.

# BPA team member advances nationals, after THS reaches state

BY ARIANE FLORES  
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

Lyssa Greger, a senior from Temple High School, utilized her sharpened skills and talent and advanced to nationals at the state Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition.

There were roughly 50 students in Desktop Publishing, all representing the best in their region, and Greger came in third place, sealing her a spot at nationals in May.

"I didn't find out my results until late (March 7), so it was a big surprise. It's my last year doing this, and I'm ecstatic about going to nationals," she said.

The Temple BPA team, attended the state competition March 4-7 in Austin. The powerhouse team consisted of Ben Weinblatt, Tyler Harrison, Ariane Flores, Meghan Farrell, Annie Sorge, Carrie Davis\*, Jaylen Lewis and

Greger, all coached by Mrs. Belinda Minzenmayer.

The students arrived at the Radison Hotel where they stayed and competed on the afternoon of March 4. The following day, events began around the clock. Fortunately, most of their events were in the afternoon.

"I was so happy that our events were later in the day. I love sleeping in, and it gave everyone more time to prepare," said Davis, a senior.

After a long day of competing, the team anxiously awaited for the results. Competition was intense with several other elite BPA teams present at the state meet.

"There were four hotels where the BPA teams from all over Texas were staying, and they were all pretty much full," said Tyler Harrison, Temple's BPA president. "This year was a really big turnout, and after the first day, it was pretty obvious that everyone came

prepared."

"The competition was intimidating but once we got to the testing room and sat down, it was just like what we had been doing leading up the state meet. Everyone did their best," Davis said.

Due to swimming and soccer conflicts, the Temple BPA team was only able to take eight competitors to the January regional competition, each one competing in a unique challenging event that favored their individual strengths.

All Temple High School eight THS students who participated in the Regional Leadership Conference at Shoemaker High School advanced to state.

\*Carrie Davis went to state in place of Ethan Henderson. Henderson competed with the team at Regionals, but was unable to compete in the state competition. Davis did not compete in regional. She competed in open events at state.



**Name:** Alycia Digby  
**Age:** 18  
**School:** Belton High School  
**Grade:** 12  
**Parents:** Penny and Craig Digby  
**Grandparents:** Dwayne and Jo Ann Digby, Billy Garner



### SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

**Who is Alycia?:**  
Vice president National Honor Society  
Vice president Student Council  
Belton Youth City Council Committee board member  
Student 2 Student  
Belton FFA ag issues team  
Belton FFA floral design team  
First Baptist Belton Youth group  
Employee at Academy Sports and Outdoors

#### Goals in Life:

I plan to attend Baylor University where I will major in education and fashion design.

#### What's important to you?

It's important to me to get a good education. I want to be prepared for college and the business world after school. I want to be successful in my career and help others along the way to be successful also.



## Bored much? Get involved!

This page is all about teenagers - their interests, their activities and what they want to read. We accept stories, photos, graphics and ideas from any area teenager.

Submit your stuff to [telegramteens@yahoo.com](mailto:telegramteens@yahoo.com)  
or call Jerry Prickett at 778.4444 x225  
For more info visit [www.tdnews.com/nexgen](http://www.tdnews.com/nexgen)