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Editorial: Hits and Misses

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Now voters can bring sanity to Dallas' wet-dry rules

The restaurant and grocery store owners spearheading Progress Dallas have gotten our hopes up. Let's hope enough Dallas voters push sanity across the finish line. Progress Dallas revealed this week that it has collected far more than the 68,846 signatures needed on each of two petitions – one to allow retail beer and wine sales and the other to allow liquor by the drink in restaurants – that should have the dual benefits of opening more of the city to a wider variety of development and pushing a few million more sales-tax dollars into a city bank account that could use some good news. Now, assuming the city secretary approves the petitions, voters must do their part and approve the new citywide ordinances.

Out with the juvenile sentencing madness

In 11 states, 129 men are serving life sentences without possibility of parole for crimes other than murder – all crimes committed as juveniles. Lawmakers in those states once figured that those adolescents should be held as accountable as adults and should never be able to redeem themselves. That's cruel and certainly unusual. In fact, that was the Supreme Court's take on it. Justices handed down a 5-4 ruling this week that strikes down a life-without-parole law that put a Florida man in jail for good because of robberies when he was 16 and 17. That's madness. Texas already came to its senses on this approach. Now 37 other states will have to. It's time.

The Texas swing is back

There was a time when professional golfers came to Texas in the spring, camped out for a while and moved on. The "Texas swing" was as much a part of the [PGA](#) schedule as the tour's prominent California and Florida stints. And, boy, was there some history made here, from Houston to Dallas to [Fort Worth](#). Now, the "Texas swing" has returned, with back-to-back-to-back tournaments this month in [San Antonio](#), Dallas and Fort Worth. Next year, Houston's annual PGA event will become part of an even larger Texas bloc. The show's in Dallas this week, of course, so we offer a big howdy.

Dallas should focus on Dallas

[Dallas City Hall](#) has enough to worry about these days. Start with a possible budget gap of \$130 million. Does this mean a tax increase, layoffs, pay cuts? Maybe letting more potholes go unfilled? These are the important questions – as opposed to the question raised by council members Delia Jasso and Steve Salazar. They want to know if anyone backs their idea to protest Arizona's new immigration law. [Mayor Tom Leppert](#) says no, the city has its own business to take care of. We also say no, the city has its own business to take care of.

Going from zero to 10 is not necessarily a good thing

Call us confused. Two years ago, Texas Tech prided itself on flatlining its tuition rates and fees. Now, the university is increasing them by 9.95 percent, following last year's 9.9-percent hike. The school feels it needs the extra revenue to catch up with student growth and to expand its faculty. OK, but who can blame Tech students and parents if they feel a bit whipsawed? A little less of a tuition roller coaster would help parents and students plan better for a future at Tech.

Toy soldier plays with the facts

The audacity of a [U.S. Senate](#) hopeful prospering unfairly from the sacrifices of others who served in Vietnam – and then attacking his critics for questioning his integrity – is beyond disgraceful. But such audacity is not beyond Connecticut Attorney General [Richard Blumenthal](#), who apparently sees no dishonor in repeatedly implying that he dodged bullets in Vietnam when his most challenging military experience was as the stateside organizer of a Toys for Tots campaign. If there existed a medal for self-deception, then Blumenthal would be a sure winner.

The talented Mr. Wheeler

[Harvard](#) administrators have to be more than a bit red-faced knowing that [Adam Wheeler](#), a 23-year-old whose made-up resume probably could have qualified him for several [Nobel Prizes](#) had it been true, conned his way into the elite [Ivy League](#) school. Somehow this Richard Blumenthal starter kit, who had been accused of academic dishonesty elsewhere, forged enough transcripts and other documents to draw down financial aid and scholarships and deceive just about everyone except [The New Republic](#) magazine, which rejected him for an internship. So much for academic vetting.

The voters have spoken on the arts hall – already

What's there about "yes" that's hard to understand? [Frisco](#) voters went to the polls in 2002 and voted by a 70-30 margin to build a shared performance hall in Collin County. It's taken years to collect enough in private donations and get the cost down to where the project is buildable. The project is ready to go. Now comes a move in Frisco to renege on the city's \$19 million pledge and put the issue back on the ballot. That would be thumbing Frisco's municipal nose at partners [Plano](#) and Allen. And it would kill the project, tea party style. How about a little respect for a decision voters already made in good faith?