



Analysis: U.S. dollar's recent gains may lack staying power

BUSINESS, 3A

Times Record News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 | TIMESRECORDNEWS.COM

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Ramble, a downtown Wichita Falls clothing store, will close at year's end. LYNN WALKER/TIMES RECORD NEWS

WICHITA FALLS ISD

Third Future to take over more schools

Lynn Walker

Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

As the Wichita Falls ISD awaits a key decision on its future, the WFISD School Board on Monday voted to turn over management of two more schools over to the private company Third Future.

The trustees voted to extend the Colorado company's control to Booker T. Washington and Southern Hills elementary schools, both of which have a history of poor performance ratings. The three-year contract would begin with the 2026-2027 school year.

Third Future took over Hirschi Middle School this school year.

Hirschi received a D accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency for 2024-25 as did Washington and Southern Hills. WFISD scored a D overall.

As with Hirschi, the company will hire its own teachers and administrators for the two elementary campuses while WFISD maintains control of the buildings and other services.

WFISD Superintendent Donny Lee said staff not retained would be placed at other campuses in the district.

He said those on term contracts will be guaranteed a spot while probation staff would be high priority but not guaranteed.

The money to pay Third Future comes from a state grant and Americans with Disability Act funds. Lee said the district did not know yet what the dollar amount would be.

Third Future representative Jill McCall touted the company's successes at the meeting, saying Third Future increases schools' staffs "to provide the highest level of instruction possible."

See SCHOOLS, Page 2A

Downtown retailer to close

Lynn Walker

Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

A clothing business in downtown Wichita Falls will close at the end of the year.

Ramble & Company owner Kathryn Hager made the announcement on the

business's Facebook Page.

Hager said on Facebook that she has offered in-person retail in Wichita Falls for 10 years in January.

"I love Ramble deeply, and hope to pass it along to someone who shared a passion for human connection, for fun and quality clothes," she said.

The store at 816 Indiana Ave. said on

its website that it is a "Downtown retailer selling soft T-shirt and sweat-shirts with uplifting messages, plus accessories and gifts."

Hager said the company's Waco store and its online store are for sale.

"If Ramble doesn't sell by year's end, I will continue online only," she said.

GLP-1 coverage expands, still limited

Phil Galewitz

KFF HEALTH NEWS

COLUMBUS, MS – April Hines has battled with her weight since she was a teenager. But in the past couple of years, her weight has fallen from 600 pounds to 385. Her blood pressure and blood sugar levels

are down, too.

"I'm not as fatigued as I used to be, and I've been able to go back to church," she said.

Hines, 46, credits her weight loss to Trulicity, part of a new class of expensive weight loss drugs known as GLP-1s, and her Medicaid coverage for it.

"It's a blessing," she said.

Many health providers were thrilled when Mississippi Medicaid in 2023 began covering GLP-1s for people 12 and older. Only 13 states cover the drugs for Medicaid enrollees for obesity, and Mississippi's Medicaid program typically has some of the sparsest

See GLP-1, Page 2A

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