



2026 Iowa State Fair theme will celebrate America's birthday

IOWA LIFE, ID

The Des Moines Register

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 | THE NEWS IOWA DEPENDS UPON | DESMOINESREGISTER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

College football world sets its sights on Iowa



Workers set up the stages for the Fox “Big Noon Kickoff” sports show live telecast before Saturday’s Iowa State and Iowa football game at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames. Find more preview coverage of Saturday’s matchup between Iowa and Iowa State football in **Sports, 1B**. NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

Senators grill Kennedy over CDC chaos

Stance on vaccines gets bipartisan criticism

Adrianna Rodriguez,
Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy,
Jay Stahl and Zac Anderson
USA TODAY

Senators alarmed by chaos at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grilled Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Sept. 4 over what some are calling his politicization of lifesaving vaccines and his past promises not to interfere in scientific decisions.

Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, heard extensive criticism from Democratic lawmakers over his handling of the nation’s health authorities.

But several Republicans also questioned the secretary’s stance on the COVID-19 immunization – which scientists widely agree saved millions of Americans’ lives.

Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Louisiana, asked Kennedy how he could believe President Donald Trump deserved a Nobel Peace Prize for facilitating the COVID-19 vaccine during his first term if Kennedy previously said the vaccine “killed more people” than the disease. Kennedy interrupted the Republican lawmaker to deny making the comment.



Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. appears before the Senate Finance Committee Sept. 4 in Washington, DC. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Another Republican, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyoming, addressed Kennedy, saying, “In your confirmation hearings you promised to uphold the highest standards for vaccines. Since then, I’ve grown deeply concerned.”

“The public has seen measles outbreaks, leadership in the National Institutes of Health questioning the use of

mRNA vaccines, the recently confirmed director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fired,” the senator added.

Half a dozen heated exchanges focused on Kennedy firing his hand-picked CDC director, Dr. Susan

See KENNEDY, Page 6A

Hinson exit opens door for Iowa’s 2nd District

Which Republicans may compete for open seat

Marissa Payne
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson’s departure from Iowa’s 2nd Congressional District race to run for U.S. Senate is already drawing interest from a spate of Republicans who may mount campaigns for the seat in 2026.

Hinson’s move opens the door to a potentially crowded GOP primary field as Republicans weigh a run for northeastern Iowa’s 2nd District, marking another top-tier contest without an incumbent as national Democrats target three of Iowa’s four congressional districts.

The Marion Republican’s announcement came just hours after U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst confirmed that, “after a tremendous amount of prayer and reflection,” she would not seek a third term.

Hinson, 42, a former TV news anchor for Cedar Rapids’ KCRG, served two terms in the Iowa House of Representatives before she was elected to Congress in 2020. That year, she defeated incumbent U.S. Rep. Abby Finkenauer, a Democrat, to flip the seat to Republicans.

She was easily reelected in 2022 and 2024, and she was favored to hold her seat in 2026. Cook Political Report

See 2ND DISTRICT, Page 6A

Des Moines courthouse sold to group with Ohio tie

Philip Joens
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

An investment group with an Ohio tie has purchased the former federal courthouse in Des Moines.

Carrie Kruse, city economic development administrator, in an email Thursday, Sept. 4, said Brian Seidensticker, founder of Richfield, Ohio-based Last Best Partners, is the representative of the buyer group. The Des Moines Register previously reported

See COURTHOUSE, Page 6A

Ready for a real estate search with real results?

Search beyond the usual suspects and find the homes that truly fit.

The next move is yours.

Discover more at
addressUSA.com

addressUSA



Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to desmoinesregister.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 177 | Issue 51
Subscribe 877-424-0225
©2025 \$3.49

