

Hinson says families should take vaccine advice from doctors

Stephen Gruber-Miller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson says families should rely on their doctors for advice on vaccinating their children after the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed its website to suggest a connection between vaccines and autism that scientific studies have long refuted.

The change by the CDC, the federal public health agency, has alarmed doctors and other public health professionals. Some public health experts have called it a political move by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime vaccine skeptic.

In a statement on Nov. 21, Hinson, a Republican who is running for Iowa’s U.S. Senate seat, said families should consult with their doctors about vaccinations.

“Families should rely on guidance from their doctors about what’s right for them and their children,” Hinson said. “We’re seeing a sharp increase in autism, particularly among young boys, and Iowa families deserve a deeper understanding of what’s driving it across the country. I’m glad the administration is committing to this work and focusing on healthier moms and babies.”

The CDC for decades has encouraged life-saving childhood vaccinations. Before the recent website change, the agency had said, “studies have shown



U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson speaks to the Faith and Freedom Coalition fall banquet on Sept. 20, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing autism spectrum disorder.” That conclusion is widely supported by research and shared by public health professionals.

The agency’s website was changed Nov. 19 to say,

“the claim ‘vaccines do not cause autism’ is not an evidence-based claim because studies have not ruled out the possibility that infant vaccines cause autism.”

The CDC’s change has received pushback from doctors and other public health organizations.

The World Health Organization previously said in a Sept. 24 statement that independent experts have confirmed for decades that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disorders.

“A robust, extensive evidence base exists showing childhood vaccines do not cause autism,” the agency said in a statement at the time. “Large, high-quality studies from many countries have all reached the same conclusion. Original studies suggesting a link were flawed and have been discredited.”

The Infectious Disease Society of America called the CDC change “deeply troubling,” in a Nov. 20 statement.

“There is no scientific rationale for CDC to change its long-standing assertion that there is no link between vaccines and autism. This change is not driven by science but by politics and will only serve to increase mistrust in science and medicine,” the organization of 13,000 clinicians, scientists and public health experts said.

USA Today contributed to this report.

Stephen Gruber-Miller covers the Iowa Statehouse and politics for the Register. He can be reached by email at sgrubermil@registermedia.com or by phone at 515-284-8169. Follow him on X at [@sgrubermiller](https://twitter.com/sgrubermiller).



Susan Knapp holds the U.S. flag during a military honors funeral for her husband, Bill Knapp, at Iowa Veterans Cemetery on Nov. 21 in Van Meter.
PHOTOS BY LILY SMITH/THE REGISTER

Knapp

Continued from Page 1A

lowed a week of services in Des Moines to honor the self-made entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Knapp, described as a “once-in-a-generation” leader by officials from the company he founded, Knapp Properties, is credited with reshaping the Des Moines skyline.

He also was one of the few remaining World War II veterans. Knapp served in the U.S. Navy during the Battle of Okinawa, the war’s last major battle in the Pacific. Enlisting with his parents’ permission at 17, he transported Marines ashore on a landing craft during the Okinawa landings amid kamikaze attacks.



Mourners pay their respects at Bill Knapp's casket. The ceremony was on the grounds of the cemetery to which he donated much of the land to create.

Returning from U.S. Navy service, Knapp attended AIB College of Business in Des Moines. In 1952, he bought Iowa Realty, building it into Des Moines’ largest commercial and residential real estate business.

He founded Knapp Properties in 1992 and led key developments in the revitalization of downtown Des Moines, including Capital Square, the Plaza condo-

minium tower, the historic Hotel Savery renovation and the Elsie Mason Manor affordable senior housing project.

Other projects included numerous reinvestments around Drake University, Knapp Properties said.

Former Iowa Gov. Chet Culver told the Register that Knapp was not just a jack-of-all-trades, but an incredible friend and patriarch of his family.

“And he just taught us a lot about living life to its fullest and putting family and friends first in terms of your priorities. And tirelessly working hard at something that you’re passionate about and then giving back,” Culver said.

Susan Knapp, who was married to Bill for 27 years, said it was his kindness that drew her to him when they first met — that, and the fact that he was a Democrat.

“That was the big draw,” Knapp said. “Because he cared about people. He not only said he cared. He did.”

She pointed to philanthropic projects he contributed to across central Iowa, including the Iowa State Fair, where the Knapp Varied Industries Building bears his name, the Evelyn K. Davis Tiny Tots Child-care Center and the Oakridge Neighborhood.

Susan Knapp said Bill’s legacy is one of giving back.

“A lot of people have a lot of money, but don’t give it back. Bill saw a need (and) he met the need,” she said.

Des Moines Register reporter Donnelle Eller contributed to this story.

Virginia Barreda is the Des Moines city government reporter for the Register. She can be reached at vbarreda@dmreg.com.

Deposit *Specials*

10 Month CD Special	14 Month CD Special
earn 4.10% APY*	earn 3.90% APY**
4.15% APY if balance is greater than \$100,000	3.95% APY if balance is greater than \$100,000
\$10,000 minimum to open	4.00% APY if balance is greater than \$250,000
New money only	\$1,000 minimum to open

GreenState CREDIT UNION
Stop by a branch, call 844-300-5810, or visit [GreenState.org](https://www.GreenState.org) to open an account.

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield as of 12/1/2025. Limited time offer. \$10,000 minimum to open. Penalty for early withdrawal. To be defined as "New Money" funds must not be currently on deposit at GreenState. If funds are moved from GreenState to another financial institution, funds cannot be redeposited as New Money for at least 60 days. Funds deposited to a depository account type (such as Share Savings or Checking) and moved to a Share will be considered New Money if the share is opened within seven calendar days. IRAs are not eligible. Fees may reduce earnings.

**APY is Annual Percentage Yield as of 12/1/2025. Limited time offer. \$1,000 minimum to open. Penalty for early withdrawal. For IRA certificate, deduct 10 basis points from listed APY. Fees may reduce earnings.

Insured by NCUA

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY.

GET \$50
FOR RECYCLING
YOUR OLD, WORKING FRIDGE

Must be a MidAmerican residential electric customer in Iowa or Illinois

[MidAmericanEnergy.com/appliance-recycling](https://www.MidAmericanEnergy.com/appliance-recycling)

Dallas County News

HOW TO CONTACT US

Our office: 400 Locust St. Ste. 500, Des Moines, IA 50309.
As a safety measure during the pandemic, the office is not open to in-person business at this time.

Circulation circulation@amestrib.com

Director of Sales cgiddens@localiq.com

Classifieds/Obituaries .. 515-465-4666 – DallasNewsObits@Gannett.com

Editor Allison Ullmann (515) 465-4666 | aullmann@theperrychief.com

General News/Sports news@adelnews.com

Legals legals@amestrib.com

The Dallas County News, USPS# 147540, is published weekly excluding Independence Day, Labor Day, Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed) by Gannett Media Corp., 400 Locust St., Ste. 500, Des Moines, IA 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); NON-POSTAL ONE AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Please send address corrections to Dallas County News Customer Service, 401 W Main

St #600 Louisville KY 40202.

Copyright: The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright. Other than for noncommercial, personal use of a limited nature, no part of this publication may be copied OR reproduced in any way without the prior written consent of the publisher. © 2025 Gannett Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

Circulation: Annual Subscription Rates – In Iowa, \$46; Out of state, \$50. Six Month Rates – In Iowa, \$26; Out of state, \$30. “Easy Pay” option is also available. Please call 515-465-4666.

Disclaimer: Print delivery available only within the newspaper distribution area. By submitting your address and/or email, you understand that you may receive promotional offers from Gannett and its related companies. You may unsubscribe from receiving any such offers at any time by calling 515-465-4666. The advertised price for the Offer includes the one-time \$3.99 activation fee for new subscribers. The advertised price does not include the charges for any premium editions. Premium editions are published to provide additional information and value to our readers. You agree that you will be charged up to an additional \$2.00 for each premium edition published and delivered to you during your subscription period, in addition to the cost of your subscription. The length of your subscription will be shortened by the publication of premium editions if those premium editions are delivered to you during your subscription. You may elect to be billed separately for premium

editions by contacting Customer Service at 515-465-4666. Thus, unless you elect to be billed separately up to an additional \$2.00 for each premium edition, you agree that the length of your subscription will be shortened in proportion to the value of the number of premium editions published and delivered to you during your subscription period. As an illustrative example, if you select a subscription of up to 12 weeks at a cost of \$48.00, and two premium editions at \$2.00 each are published and delivered to you during that subscription period, your subscription will be shortened by 1 week because the weekly cost of the subscription is \$4.00 per week and the premium edition charges total \$4.00. Depending upon the length of your subscription and the timing of the publication and delivery of premium editions, you will not be charged for any premium editions if none are published and delivered to you during your subscription. As such, in that case only, the length of your subscription will not be shortened. The timing of the publication and delivery of premium editions is variable. There will be no more than four premium editions published during the calendar year. For more information or to cancel your subscription, please call 515-465-4666.