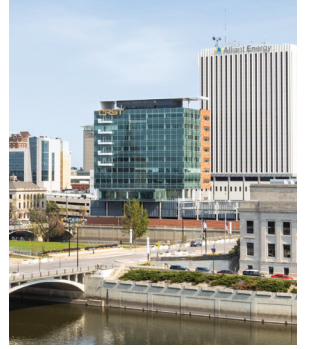




Real Success with Nate Kaeding
Nate talks to Tara Cronbaugh, founder of Java House. PAGE 20

ABI Business Monthly
Conference showcases top speakers, Cedar Rapids' resilience. PAGE 9



AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY-OWNED MEDIA COMPANY | CORRIDORBUSINESS.COM | MARCH 13, 2023 | \$2.00

IS A FOUR-DAY WEEK THE FUTURE OF WORK?

Mount Vernon company adopts workplace scheduling model gaining momentum worldwide

By Richard Pratt
richard@corridorbusiness.com

Workplace scheduling models have been forever impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with fully-remote, hybrid and flex alternatives now a common option for employers and employees across several fields.

One model some would describe as norm-altering – a true four-day work week, in place for one Corridor manufacturer for several years – is now part of a trend sweeping through Europe as a viable, even preferable, alternative for millions of workers, and being considered by a growing number of U.S. companies.

So how well does a four-day work week actually “work?” Surprisingly well, say those who’ve implemented it – so well, they say, that there’s probably no turning back from a model, once considered groundbreaking, that’s rapidly becoming a viable alternative across the workplace landscape.

FOUR-DAY PAGE 8

Katrina Jilovec of Mechanicsville operates a four-head screen printer at U.S. Nameplate in Mount Vernon. CREDIT RICHARD PRATT



Swisher officials to regroup after voters again reject municipal water plan

By Richard Pratt
richard@corridorbusiness.com

Swisher officials are assessing their next steps after a measure to develop a municipal water system for the city was soundly rejected by voters Tuesday, March 7.

According to official election results from the Johnson County Auditor’s Office, the \$26.2 million measure was defeated by a margin of 84.2% to 15.8%, with 401 Swisher residents voting against the proposal and 75 voting in favor. Turnout was reported at 72.3% – the highest election voter turnout in

the city’s history.

After the vote, Swisher mayor Chris Taylor said he wasn’t completely surprised by the result.

“We were asking people to make a personal sacrifice for the community for a benefit that they might not see for many years, and to do so with limited information, because we can’t predict the future,” Mr. Taylor said. “So that was always going to be a hard sell. I am surprised by the margin, but that’s why we put these things to a vote.”

SWISHER PAGE 2

Pilots vs. polio

Two rotarians set to embark, again, on 25,000-mile flight of a lifetime

By Noah Tong
noah@corridorbusiness.com

Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels, local pilots attempting to join an exclusive club of flying light aircraft around the world, are nothing if not persistent.

The duo, related by marriage, have approximately 90 years of combined experience piloting small aircraft, and are once again hoping to fly around the

world. On May 5, they intend to depart the Eastern Iowa Airport for Portland, Maine, the first leg of a three-month endeavor around the world.

This summer’s flight path marks attempt number three. Just 10 days before takeoff in March 2020, COVID-19 upended their plans. Another launch date was postponed when Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, making the flight crew cancel their trip through Russia and reevaluate the route once again.

“The standard response I get is ‘Are you out of your mind?’” said Mr. Ock-

PILOTS PAGE 4

Corridor Media Group
2345 Landon Road, Ste. 100
North Liberty, IA 52317

Commercial Real Estate
SYMPOSIUM

March 30 @ 11:30 am | Hotel at Kirkwood
To learn more about the event and to register go to:
corridorbusiness.com/events

PILOTS FROM PAGE 1

enfels when asked why he is choosing to carry out this mission. "Well, that response has changed substantially since we started talking about it. This is not just two old guys getting in an airplane flying around the world. We've got top notch, certified safety equipment with us. This isn't just a lark."

Thanks to their efforts, the rotarians are nearly halfway toward their goal of raising \$1 million in funds to eradicate polio globally.

While polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% since 1988, Pakistan and Afghanistan remain endemic. Mr. Teahen and Mr. Ockenfels hope their "bucket list" trip can also provide critical funds in finally eliminating the disease.

Global trip

Mr. Teahen, owner of Teahen Funeral Services in Cedar Rapids, approached his counterpart in 2019 about his plan to fly around the world. He initially envisioned a solo flight but was told by his wife he needed to find a partner.

After outlining his rough plan, he told Mr. Ockenfels "you can join me if you want." The retired City Carton Recycling CEO said yes.

The team became hooked on the idea of flying around the world — something only 700 people have done in history, fewer than 270 of which are alive today — obsessively planning over the details of a logistical headache.

Their current route takes them tenta-

tively into 25 countries over 33 stops in 90 days. If all goes to plan, they will travel more than 25,000 miles and touch down on four continents.

Starting in Cedar Rapids, they will fly to Greenland, Iceland and southeast through Europe, Jordan and the UAE. They then fly to islands like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji and the American Samoa. Their final destination is Denver, Colorado.

Toward the tail end of their journey, a 16 hour flight from Hawaii to California is the longest single leg of the trip.

The views may be spectacular from the air, but it won't be a comfortable trip. Each pilot will wear survival wet-suits and inflatable life vests with limited space to move around. Minimal food, like energy bars, will be stored onboard. Bathroom breaks will be avoided if at all possible, with the pilots depending on disposable bags and bedpans.

Logistics nuisance

Because the new route involves more miles and longer durations in the air, the pilots sold their initial airplane, a red, white and blue Piper Lance II, in favor of the Cessna T210M.

"A single engine airplane is dramatically cheaper, feels substantially different, flies faster...and we're both very comfortable with single-engine airplanes," said Mr. Ockenfels, stating the differences between single-engine and multi-engine aircraft.

The Cessna flies higher, holds more fuel and will allow for a safer trip that



The exterior of a 1977 Cessna T210M, the plane Mr. Ockenfels and Mr. Teahen will use to fly around the world. CREDIT JOHN OCKENFELS AND PETER TEAHEN

will extend the voyage 30 days, they said. Still, they will need to ship in aviation fuel to ensure they can extend the trip the full 90 days.

"This time we're probably down to 30-40% of our stops that are going to have fuel shipped in to us," said Mr. Teahen.

Both pilots will be manually pumping gas into the plane, in some locations up to 150 gallons. They've never done this before but they expect it will take at least two hours.

"We'll be out in the Middle East, so we'll have to do it in some of the plac-

es where it's the hottest climates to deal with, and you're sitting there in the blaring sun with no protection," he added.

A rubber fuel bladder and newly installed tip tanks will allow the pilots to store 193 more gallons of fuel, making a nonstop 18 hour flight possible.

They also installed a HF radio, LED lights, upgraded tires, obtained special permits and will position GoPros inside the aircraft to document the experience. On the dashboard is an electronic glass

PILOTS PAGE 7

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED for Heart & Vascular Care

UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's, long known as Cedar Rapids' Heart Hospital, has once again been recognized for its stellar reputation and commitment to heart and vascular care.

St. Luke's earned national recognition from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in U.S. News & World Report's 2023 "Best Hospitals" guidebook. The publication highlights hospitals and health systems that implement protocols and maintain high standards of patient care to ensure the best cardiovascular outcome for every patient, every time.

In Iowa, St. Luke's topped the list, with accolades including:

- Participation in **four National Cardiovascular Data Registries (NCDRs)**
- Cedar Rapids' only **Chest Pain Center Accreditation**
- The area's only **Transcatheter Valve Certification**
- **Chest Pain - MI Registry Platinum Award**, the highest-possible Performance Achievement Award



ACC accreditations and participation in NCDRs mean patients can trust St. Luke's to deliver superior cardiovascular care.

Scan the QR code to read more or visit unitypoint.org/heartcare.



AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY



UnityPoint Health Cedar Rapids



Read more about the flight at corridorbusiness.com

PILOTS FROM PAGE 4

avionics suite cockpit decked out with the equivalent of “a whole bunch of iPads,” said Mr. Teahen.

In total, modifications to the plane account for \$40,000 the pilots will pay out of pocket. That is in addition to approximately \$30,000 in fuel expenses and \$27,000 in a 90-day insurance policy that is more than double the cost in 2020.

Each location they head to requires a list of considerations, requiring an exhaustive and obsessive attention to detail. In no particular order of importance, the pilots have considered the seasons they will be flying to, local sunrise and sunset times, time zones, hours in which each airport is open, international conflicts and more.

Failing to properly follow safety regulations or other requirements at an airport can have severe consequences.

“We found out in February our safe-

ty raft was expired,” said Mr. Teahen. “That’s the kind of detail you have to be attentive to. Because if we had flown and got into another country, they could search the aircraft. They could confiscate the plane because we’re flying with expired rafts.”

To aid them in their efforts, the pilots have been in contact with the U.S. Department of State and Central Intelligence Agency to better understand where they can and can’t fly. The agencies have warned them to not fly out of certain airports, as the danger of being murdered, kidnapped or held hostage by terrorist organizations in certain parts of the world is too strong.

Once they land, a person will be there to assist the pilots in transporting them to their lodging location.

Collins Aerospace is providing mapping and flight planning guidance for the trip, in addition to lending a survival raft. CBJ

THE GRAHAM MENTALITY:
Acting in your best interests.

We’ve built our reputation on delivering on-time, on-budget, in the most demanding of environments. What’s the key to our success? We call it **The Graham Mentality**: acting in the best interests of our clients every day, with every decision.

It’s no coincidence that over 70% of our current contracts are repeat customers.

HEALTHCARE | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL | PRIVATE EDUCATION
56 16TH AVE SW CEDAR RAPIDS 319.364.0213
grahamconstruction.com

GRAHAM
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
Building what’s important.

“F&M Bank really treats us like family, and that’s how we treat our patients at Eastern Iowa Endodontics.”

- Dr. Derek Peek, DDS, MS

EASTERN IOWA ENDODONTICS

F&M BANK
“The Right Choice”

200 First Street S.W. • 4000 1st Ave. NE
www.fmbank.biz