

BRIEFLY

NN Inc. wins Pinnacle Award from Delphi

NN Inc. announced that the NN Inc. Ball & Roller Division's facility located in Mountain City received Delphi Corp.'s Pinnacle Award for Supplier Excellence. The award, established in 2004, recognizes Delphi's top supplier partners for their contribution to Delphi's Excellence culture.

The Pinnacle Award provides annual recognition based on quality, cost and delivery performance. Sixty-three suppliers from 15 countries and various categories were recognized.

NN Inc. manufacturers and supplies high-precision bearing components consisting of balls, rollers, seals and retainers for leading bearing manufacturers on a global basis. In addition, the company manufactures a variety of other plastic components.

TriSummit Bank state charter granted

Officials of TriSummit Bank (in organization) announced that their application has been accepted and the Tennessee bank charter granted by state regulators. The announcement was made by president and chief executive officer R. Lynn Shipley Jr.

The next step in the approval process is the field investigation by state regulators, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Reserve, which is expected to be conducted in October. Continuing on this schedule organizers expect to call for payment of stock subscriptions in early December. The bank's opening is projected for the first quarter of 2007.

Matney of R!OT Digital Pictures to visit ETSU

ETSU alumnus Tim Matney will visit his alma mater Thursday and Friday.

The public is invited to attend his free address, "Visual Effects for the Big Screen and the Small Screen," on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Rogers-Stout Hall Auditorium, Room 118.

A member of the ETSU class of 1993, Matney is a visual effects artist for R!OT Digital Pictures in Santa Monica, Calif.

For more information or assistance with seating for those with disabilities, call Cher Cornett, director of the digital media program, at 979-3151.

Simple Abundance to host women's workshop

Simple Abundance Yoga will host Dr. Susan Rollins, cytopathologist and health advocate, on Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Rollins will provide information on breast cancer awareness, detection and diagnosis. In addition, Rollins is a very active mother of two, and will share tips on how to incorporate exercise and proper nutrition into our busy lives.

Following Rollins' presentation, Simple Abundance will offer a one-hour Yoga for Women class, highlighting specific poses that are beneficial, specifically for women. The class is appropriate for all levels, beginner to advanced. Light refreshments will be available.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call 677-2234 or register online at www.simpleabundanceyoga.com. Free T-shirts will be given to the first 10 people to register.

From staff reports



The Associated Press

Domino's pizza delivery driver Jim Pohle is shown at the store where he works in Pensacola, Fla.

Pensacola, Fla., group successfully forms the first pizza drivers union

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Domino's Pizza delivery driver Jim Pohle could have quit when he saw a competitor offering an extra 25 cents an hour in wages and his bosses wouldn't match it. But he decided instead to stand up and form the nation's only pizza drivers union to successfully organize workers.

Now he represents 11 drivers as president of the American Union of Pizza Delivery Drivers Inc. at the franchise where he has worked off and on for more than a dozen years. Experts say he has created a model for fast food workers wanting to organize in other locations.

"When they declared us tipped employees and refused to pay us the Florida minimum wage of \$6.40, I was kind of angry. I came home that night and I told my buddy, I said 'we are forming a union,'" he said.

Pohle said his friend, a fellow ex-Marine, "thought I was venting steam." But the 37-year-old, who delivers pizzas because he likes to sleep late, smoke on the job and listen to the radio, got on the Internet and found St. Louis labor attorney Mark Potashnick.

Potashnick worked on failed organizing efforts by pizza workers in Ohio, Michigan and St. Louis, including those of The Association of Pizza Delivery Drivers. He coached Pohle on submitting a petition to the National Labor Relations Board, which recognized the union this summer.

Rodney Johnson, a regional director for the board, said the case appears to be the first of its kind. He has a petition pending from Pensacola-area pizza makers wanting to join Pohle's union.

Tim McIntyre, a spokesman for Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Domino's Pizza Inc., said that while the Pensacola franchise

was independently owned and operated, the company was disappointed by the union vote.

"We do not believe it is necessary in our industry, and are surprised that the individual employees in that store voted to turn over their ability to represent themselves to their supervisor to someone else," he said in a statement.

Pohle's union and the franchise owner haven't agreed on wages and working conditions, he said. Apart from wages, many pizza delivery drivers nationally have discussed forming unions because they are often the victims of robbers.

In the meantime, the franchise owners have raised the pay of some drivers at their six nonunion stores, Pohle said.

Attorney Keith Pyburn, who is representing the franchise owner, said the formation of Pohle's union did not surprise his clients.

"Their company is complying with its legal obligation to bargain with the union and that process is ongoing," said Pyburn, who would not discuss employee pay.

The union could open doors for other fast food workers, said Kate Bronfenbrenner, director of labor education research at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

She pointed to recent organizing efforts by Starbucks employees in New York and Chicago. The Industrial Workers of the World has members at seven Starbucks Corp. stores.

Food service workers are different from the government, auto, steel and blue-collar workers that represented the bedrock of union membership in decades past but whose union numbers are dwindling, she said. "Employers can fight very hard" with food workers because they are easily replaceable, she said.

Panera exec sees plenty of room for growth

By TRACIE ROZHON
New York Times News Service

Ronald M. Shaich, the chief executive of the Panera Bread Co., thinks the focus of discussion should not be on his company's stock price but on the food, the atmosphere and the customers.

Q&A

Next month, Panera will open its 1,000th store — and Shaich will ring the opening bell at Nasdaq to celebrate.

Sitting in a Panera store in Everett, Mass., facing a spread of the new lobster salad (\$14.99), the new apple and sausage Crispani (\$8.99) and the new tart cherry scone (\$2.49), Shaich (pronounced shake) discussed his company's no-longer-white-hot stock price and a recent Barron's article titled "Panera: Running Low on Yeast?," among other topics. Here are excerpts:

Q: You co-founded Au Bon Pain and later sold it. How did Panera come about?

Shaich: I was running a small bakery in Boston, and a chef I knew had opened Au Bon Pain — they had opened 13 stores and closed 11 of them. With a partner, Louis Kane, we bought it. They had a lot of debt, and

between 1981 and 1984, we worked out of it. In 1984, someone bought one of our French baguettes and asked that we split it lengthwise; he then pulled out a Stop & Shop bag and put meat in it. We said: why don't we do that? So we began selling salad and sandwiches like smoked turkey and brie. By 1991, we went public.

Q: But then you sold it?

Shaich: Yes, by then we had bought the St. Louis Bread Co., which became Panera, and we changed the bread. It was a sour dough product; we hydrated it to give it more density; we gave it a longer fermentation. By now, we had 100 cafes. By 1998, Panera was buried under three divisions and I realized I'd just as soon sell everything and bet on Panera, which I thought had the strength to be a true national chain. It took one and half years.

Q: Panera has been a wonder stock. The stock price rose 60 percent last year. But this year, the stock peaked at \$75 in April and then fell. Although the price has recovered a bit — it's now up to \$59 — it is still off the peak.

Shaich: Let's put it in perspective: We'll have \$2 billion in sales by the end of the year. Earnings are up 32 percent. We've been the

No.1 performing stock in the restaurant industry for the last five years. Starbucks does \$750,000 per store per year; Chipotle does \$1.4 million; MacDonald's does \$1.85 million; and Wendy's does \$1.3 million. We do \$2 million per store per year.

Q: Yes, but store-to-store comparisons are off versus a year ago, and Barron's questions the productivity of the new stores you are opening, whether they are making as much money as the ones opened before 2005.

Shaich: They weren't comparing apples and apples. They didn't look at what those earlier stores made when they first opened. Our stores gather momentum as people discover them.

Q: So what you're saying is that if they had made the correct comparison, they would have found that the productivity had not dropped?

Shaich: That's right.

Q: Let's get to the food, shall we?

Shaich: Please.

Q: You've gotten a lot of publicity on the new Crispani, which is like a very, very thin pizza that serves two and sells for \$7 to \$9. But what are you developing now? What about your desserts? I

had a chocolate fudge thing that looked great but was dry.

Shaich: Maybe it was sitting there since morning. But since you mentioned it — and you want some news — we are in the process of developing an amazing apple pie, awash in cinnamon. Oh, it's delicious! Tom Gumpel, he was on the winning Coupe de Monde team — that's like the Olympics for bread — he was a dean at the Culinary Institute, he's head of our development bakery. He came out with the new scones.

Q: You're opening your 1,000th store. Will you get to 3,000?

Shaich: Well, we're still in the early innings. We're only 60 percent saturation in the United States. We're on a wonderful escalator. We're opening in Canada next year.

Q: Why not in New York City?

Shaich: We will. We're opening in the Bronx next year.

Q: One last question: Why is Starbucks coffee better than yours?

Shaich: There's a reason that Starbucks can't do baked goods and we can. Actually, I think our beans are every bit as good. We just don't have as much coffee presentation, we don't have as much coffee show.

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