

- [Ocala.com](#)
- [Ocala Mom](#)
- [Ocala Business Journal](#)
- [Voz Latina](#)
- [Pets](#)

[Register](#) | [Forums](#) | [Login](#)



Site
 Local Businesses
 Web Search

Web Search powered by YAHOO! Search

[☁ 84° M/CLOUDY, Ocala, FL](#) | [Home Delivery](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Print Ads](#) | [Mobile](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Classifieds](#)

- [Local](#)
- [Elections](#)
- [State](#)
- [Nation/World](#)
- [Weather](#)

News

[Home](#) > [News](#)

- -
- -
- -
- [Enlarge Text](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Share](#)

-

- o Your Email
- o Recipient's Email
- o Send
- o [WITH PHOTO](#)
- o [NO PHOTO](#)
- o [DIGG](#)
- o [FACEBOOK](#)
- o [Yahoo! Buzz](#)
- o [YAHOO](#)
- o [NEWSVINE](#)
- o [DELICIOUS](#)

RACING THE CLOCK

Local steel firm rushes to beat Siberian winter

Fabricators making trusses for donated indoor soccer facility

By [Rick Cundiff](#)
Star-Banner

Published: Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 6:30 a.m.
Last Modified: Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 7:50 a.m.

OCALA - As Tropical Storm Fay dropped torrents of rain Friday on Ocala, Bernie Coyle was worried about ice.



Jannet Walsh/Star-Banner

Bernie Coyle, of American Spaceframe Fabricators International, shows some of the special trusses that are being prepared for shipment to Siberia.

Coyle, the CEO of Ocala-based American Spaceframe Fabricators International, needs to get steel trusses for a fabric building shipped to Siberia soon.

The steel needs to get to Norilsk, Russia by October, Coyle said. "The port freezes. Once the port freezes, you gotta wait 'til the summer thaw," he said.

ASFI is shipping the fabric-framed structure to the second-largest city north of the Arctic Circle. Once it gets

there, the building will be assembled into an indoor soccer facility for the people of Norilsk.

"It's a very sophisticated building, because it will support about 400 kilograms (approximately 881 pounds) of snow load per square meter," said Raouf Jafiarov, president of L.A.R.T. Industrial Resources, the Canadian-Russian engineering firm for the project.

The sports arena is a gift to the city of Norilsk from MMC Norilsk Nickel. The mining company is the world's largest producer of nickel and palladium.

The \$25 million project offered a complex challenge to ASFI. Both the steel trusses and the fabric covering must be able to withstand temperatures as low as -58 degrees Celsius (-72 degrees Fahrenheit), winds up to 100 mph, and up to 400 inches of snow a year.

"The steel, we had to order a custom alloy, and buy the entire batch and have it custom rolled," Coyle said.

The tensioned-fabric structure actually works better than a traditional building would for the same purpose, Coyle said.

"If you want to have a soccer field, you don't want to have big steel columns that the ball's going to bounce off of," he said.

The project has been in the works for nearly three years, starting before ASFI moved from Crystal River to Ocala last year.

"A lot of that was the engineering challenge," said ASFI architectural sales vice president Timothy Nee.

The arched shape of the structure confounded some Russian engineers, Coyle said.

"Engineers, they deal with buildings. They're trained on rectangles. These structures are curves," he said. "Whenever we deal with engineers who are not accustomed to dealing with curves, it's a daunting challenge."

The language barrier added another challenge, as did Russian law. Unlike in the United States, Russian engineers can be charged with a crime if disaster strikes.

"In Russia, if you're the engineer who signed off on that building that collapsed, then you're criminally liable," said ASFI vice president of business development Chris Longley. "Quite literally, they would challenge us on every single truss."

Norilsk has other challenges. The city of 134,000 residents is accessible only by sea or air, a four-hour jet flight from Moscow. The Blacksmith Institute, a U.S.-based environmental organization has named it one of the world's 10 most polluted cities for each of the past two years.

The new soccer facility, which is expected to be completed next year, will give Norilsk parents some welcome relief, Coyle said. Marion County families whose children were stuck in the house last week because of the rain are a good example, he said.

"Can you imagine all the people here in Marion County going crazy because they can't get the kids out to burn up the energy?" he asked. "That's the main purpose of this, to get the kids out so they can burn up that energy."

Rick Cundiff may be reached at rick.cundiff@starbanner.com or at 352-867-4130.

- -
- -
- -
- [Enlarge Text](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Share](#)

-
-
-
-
- [WITH PHOTO](#)
- [NO PHOTO](#)
- [DIGG](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [Yahoo! Buzz](#)
- [YAHOO](#)
- [NEWSVINE](#)
- [DELICIOUS](#)

<p><u>Buy Stocks - \$4 Fee at</u> No account or investment minimums. No inactivity fees. sharebuilder.com</p>	<p><u>Car Insurance Quotes Online</u> Compare auto insurance quotes from top companies online. www.insurance.com</p>	<p><u>New Car Weekly Sales</u> Find out Today's Advertised New Car MSRP & Instant Invoice Price CarBargainsWeekly</p>
--	--	--

[Ads by Yahoo!](#)

Add a Comment

[Start or join a forum](#) on this topic.

Events Calendar [More Events](#) [Submit Event](#)

- [27 Wed](#)
- [28 Thu](#)
- [29 Fri](#)
- [30 Sat](#)
- [31 Sun](#)
- Sponsored by:



EVENTS SEARCH

enter event type

Top Jobs

- [Floor Tech](#)
[NORTH CAMPUS](#)
[REHAB/NURSING](#)
[SEEKS E ...](#)

- [Housekeeping Aides](#)
[Sought to join our](#)
[Leesburg Te ...](#)

- [NORTH CAMPUS](#)
[REHAB/NURSING](#)
[Is currently acceptin ...](#)

- [Nursing Positions](#)
[Available For](#)
[RN/LPN](#)
[F/ ...](#)

- [RN Weekend Supervisor](#)
[SOUGHT TO MANAGE ADMIN.](#)
[CLI ...](#)

- [RN - Weekend Supervisor](#)
[SOUGHT TO MANAGE ADMIN.](#)
[C ...](#)

- [WILLISTON](#)
[REHAB/NURSING](#)
[A 121-bed SNF seeks](#)
[L ...](#)

- [RECESSION-PROOF CAREER](#)
[Busy insurance](#)
[executive ...](#)

- [POOL or BIRDCAGE INSTALLERS &/or](#)
[PRO FAB INSTALLERS ...](#)

- [\\$36K - \\$50K +](#)
[FIRST YEAR](#)
[No Experience Needed](#)
[...](#)

- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)
- [Most Recent](#)

- [Woman killed on I-75 while putting gas in Bronco](#)
- [Police: Butter-hungry man pulls knife at church buffet](#)
- [Meth lab discovered in backyard shed](#)
- [3 teens injured in single-vehicle crash](#)
- [Bicyclist killed in hit-and-run accident](#)
- [Motorcyclist dies one week after crash on NE 25th Ave.](#)
- [Merillat will idle Ocala factory, lay off 279 employees](#)
- [Woman killed on I-75 while fueling Bronco](#)

- [Merillat will idle Ocala plant, lay off 279 workers](#)
- [School Board incumbent Hering surprised to run second](#)
- [Merillat will idle Ocala factory, lay off 279 employees](#)
- [Post-Katrina Louisiana gears up as Gustav heads to Gulf](#)
- [Bicyclist killed in hit-and-run accident](#)
- [County's voters return Charlie Stone to office](#)
- [Judge Howard re-elected; Hawkins, Lyn go to runoff](#)
- [Woman killed on I-75 while fueling Bronco](#)
- [County's voters return Charlie Stone to office](#) 1 min ago
- [Gustav weakens but is likely to become hurricane again](#) 7 min ago
- [Grace School Ocala opens its doors to students](#) 30 min ago
- [Breaking: Bicyclist killed in hit-and-run accident](#) 57 min ago
- [Local briefs for Aug. 27, 2008](#) 1 hr ago
- [Police beat for Aug. 27, 2008](#) 1 hr ago
- [Gutman's offer is too little too late](#) 2 hrs ago
- [Rate increase has no ill effect on SunTran](#) 2 hrs ago
- [Broker loses license over complaints](#) 2 hrs ago
- [Lawyer Al Cone dies at 87](#) 2 hrs ago

Featured Businesses



[Sunkool Air Conditioning, Inc.](#)

530 NE 14th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 622-1067



[Old Country Wood Floors](#)

4060 SE 45th Ct
Ocala, FL 34480

(352) 694-5677



[Florida Credit Union](#)

2424 SW 17th Rd
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 237-8222



[SunTrust Mortgage, Inc.](#)

203 E Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 368-6453



[All Pets Clinic](#)

1741 E Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 351-3588

- [Contact Us](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Work for Us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Corrections](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Photo Reprints](#)
- [Site Map](#)

Copyright © 2008 Ocala.com — All rights reserved. Restricted Use only.