

The Orlando Tribune

News you can count on!

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NEW INVESTOR HARDENS GRIP ON GENERAL CEMENT INDUSTRIES

BY CHARLES QUAKER,
OT REPORTER



*GCI gets New Life with a
New Investment Group but at
what cost?*

General Cement Industries (GCI), a staple of the Orlando construction industry for years, has recently faced difficult decisions regarding their solvency. The company has struggled to keep their doors open and the business solvent for several years. Rumors abounded concerning the company's Chapter 11, and the owners, Ricardo

and Luis Medina, did little to alleviate those rumors.

As it turns out, those rumors no longer hold sway. A new player has entered the scene and infused the company with cash resources. The cash flow from the investor allowed GCI to meet its debtors and alleviate the deficit faced by the company.

While GCI is no longer in danger of insolvency, mystery still surrounds this new player. The identity of the new investor remains unknown, and it appears this investor wishes to keep it that way. This reporter's investigations have uncovered little on the personality who has

swooped in and saved GCI.

While our surprise financier remains hidden, their effect on GCI does not. The original owners are still involved in the business, but their interest is now in the minority. The new boss has a 65% controlling interest, so they are clearly in the driver's seat. While the day to day operation of the business remains in the Medina brothers' hands, the control of the business most assuredly does not. Whether this takeover bodes well or ill, only time will tell.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Black Choppers circle Orlando at night. Could it be Black Ops?
- ◆ Drug Overdoses are at an all new high with the new drug hitting the streets!



CITY LEADERS WANT GARBAGE MONOPOLY WASTED

BY WENDY CHISHOLM,
OT REPORTER

Residents of a city or municipality rarely take notice of their waste disposal. They put out the garbage, it's picked up, and then it's out of mind. What most people don't realize is how lucrative the waste management field can be.

In the Orlando area, the giant in the industry is, and continues to be, Santoro Waste Management (SWM). While they are relatively new on the scene, they are positioned as the premier entity in

charge of taking out the garbage.

SWM has held it's position against a number of challengers, and has turned all of the upstarts away with an almost ruthless efficiency.

This has caused speculation among officials and the word "monopoly" is being tossed around.

"Business competition is what makes capitalism such a strong economic model," said Orlando Councilman

Herbert Moore. "Without that competition, a business can charge what it likes and the consumer has little say in the matter. We are starting to feel those effects with Santoro. We are looking at how we can alleviate this issue."

It remains to be seen what, if anything, the government can do to break up this monopoly.



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FAMILY OF FOUR GOES MISSING IN OCOEE

BY SARAH ROSE
OT REPORTER



In a disturbing incident, a family of four - Mike and Sarah Baxter, along with their teenage children Steven and Emily - have gone missing, with no trace of their whereabouts.

If you have information about this missing family, please call

Police 407-555-1000

Crime Stoppers

407-555-8477

The disappearance is especially worrisome, as the Baxters had no enemies that their neighbors knew about. "No, the Baxters were the cream of the crop," said Melvin Caruthers, a neighbor and friend. "Sure, they had their problems, just like any of us, but they'd give you the meal off their plate if you

needed it."

A friend's birthday party took the family to Ocoee, where they were last seen on Sunday February 5th. Ocoee Police Stan Cutler said investigations are ongoing, but there is little evidence for the police to follow.

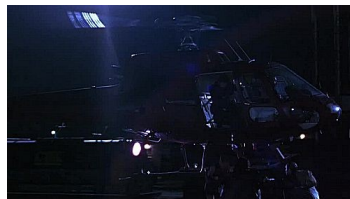
Chief Cutler has not ruled out federal assistance in this case. If the tip lines offer no viable leads, a call to the FBI may be in the cards. While the Ocoee police would like to solve the case on their own, the most important thing is the return of the Baxters. As such, Chief Cutler has not ruled out FBI involvement.

"If anyone has any information on what happened to the Baxters, please, contact either the Ocoee police department or Crime Stoppers. This is a tough one for us. To have a family go missing is one thing. To have little to no information is an entirely different matter. We just need one lead. One lead could be the key to solving this disappearance. Our only hope now is you, the public."

The number for the Ocoee police department is 407-555-1000. Crime Stoppers can be reached at 407-555-TIPS (8477).

MYSTERIOUS HELICOPTERS CIRCLING CENTRAL FLORIDA STIR SPECULATION

BY WENDY CHISHOLM
OT REPORTER



While the sight of helicopters circling Central Florida skies is not a new one, recent activity in the Orlando air space is bringing new speculation as to the said helicopters purpose.

Numerous sightings of dark colored choppers circling the Central Florida skyways has brought speculation and worry from the community at large.

Especially troubling is the total lack of identifying marks. The Federal Aviation Administration requires that all aircraft have identifying marks, particularly when operating over popu-

lated areas. The fact that these aircraft have no such marks brings questions about their origin - and their purpose.

While the thought of governmental black ops services abound in fiction, the idea is largely scoffed at when discussing the matter in the "real world."

Such speculation is no longer a product of John Grisham or Tom Clancy's musings. The furtive way in which these choppers move, and the way in which they avoid other aircraft, only fuels the conspiracy theorists who have long maintained the existence of such agencies.

"No one wants to consider that the U.S. government is involved in secret, clandestine operations, or that resources have been allocat-

ed for such purposes," said an anonymous hacker who wished to remain unidentified. "But is it really so hard to believe? There are any number of purposes for which such an agency could be tasked, from counter terrorism to world domination to supernatural monster hunters. No. These agencies are real, and they are now in Central Florida."

These words will most likely be taken as paranoid ramblings, to be sure. But is it such a stretch of the imagination to consider these ramblings might have a grain of truth? Until such time as these helicopters are identified, such rumors will inevitably continue to grow.

CRIME-LINE:

800-555-1234

TIP-LINE:

888-555-4321

Orlando Police:

407-555-6789



POLICE PRESENCE HAS AN EFFECT

By BUFF SPIKEY,
OT REPORTER

With all of the bad news about the various police departments and activities of late, there is one surprising fact involving the police - they are doing their jobs.



In response to the various threats facing Central Florida, police chiefs across the area have doubled down on increasing police presence. In Orlando, in particular, the increased police presence has generated a

welcome side effect - the crime rate in the patrolled areas has decreased.

Residents of the affected areas are grateful. "It's so nice seeing the police officers doing some good in

these troubled times," said Doris Faeron, a resident of Highland. "We're so glad the crime is going down. It makes us hopeful for the future."

Whether this decrease in crime will continue is another matter. As it stands now, though, the needed respite from a seemingly never ending crime wave is a welcome change. Let's

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informed with what

is happening in the

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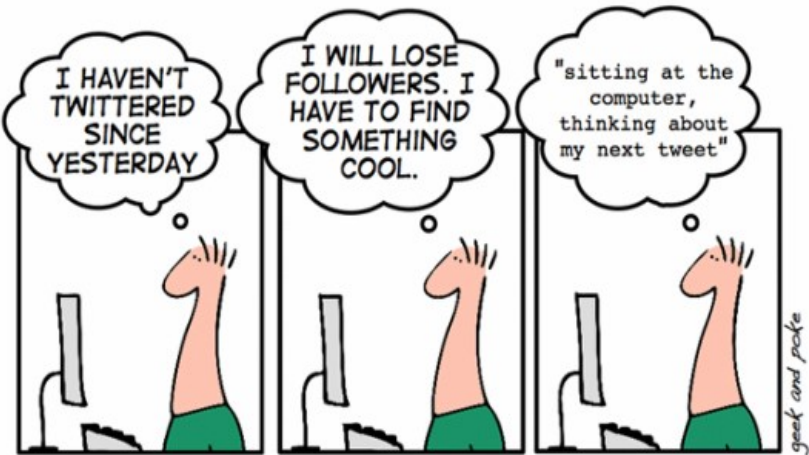
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THE GENESIS OF A TWEET

ORLANDO BY NIGHT

OC MOMENT

All the information is on the webpage.

This is an In-Character Newspaper that has been created for Orlando By-Night Live Action Role Play Group. For more information go to the Orlando By-Night website. In it, you will find articles and ads that relate to the game.

Look Closely and see how many Clues you can find inside!

On behalf of the Orlando By-Night Staff, we would like to thank you for your participation and hope you have fun playing!

Happy Hunting!

ST EMAILS

John Quest:
gamestuff2@yahoo.com
Lou Landau
imakeuntilt@yahoo.com

DRUG ACTIVITIES AND OVERDOSES SHOOT UP IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

*BY RICK WILLIAMS
ORLANDO TRIBUNE*

While many crime statistics are on the decline in Central Florida, the drug trade is doing a thriving business in the area, both in production, distribution and use.

Narcotics have always been a part of society, and Central Florida is no exception. But as of late, the volume of drugs passing through the city and into the streets have risen to almost epic proportions. Both the Orlando Police Department and the DEA have taken note of this upswing, and law enforcement officials are alarmed.

"The amount of drugs hitting the streets is staggering," said Lieutenant Carrie Sendowski, head of the Orlando Police Department Drug Unit. "There are a wide variety of drugs flooding the market, and the volume of each is considerable. The proliferation of these drugs had led to an epidemic of overdoses."

Over the past week, 17 cases of death by overdose have been reported by the Orlando Coroner's Office. "These kinds of numbers are usually seen over several months," said Orlando Medical Examiner Jack Madison. "Our number of drug related deaths last year was 94. So to see 17 deaths in one week - well, that's a disturbing trend."

A number of different drug recovery programs are planning to flood the streets with literature about the dangers of drug use, in the hopes that such literature will help reduce these deaths. "If this literature can save even one life, then it will be worth it," said Evan Gantry, director of the Orlando Clinic for Clean Living. "Education needs to be the focus. If we can make an impression of how dangerous these substances can be, then we will hopefully change some minds."

The more problematic issue, at least for the police, is where these drugs are coming from. Many suggest, with the increased supply and the well organized distribution network, a connection to organized crime. There are a number of organized crime networks affiliated with Central Florida. Is this upswing a product of a drug war? Or, perhaps even more worrisome, is it a consolidation by one or more groups of the various drug cartels working the city? Police officials are saying they are hard at work investigating these allegations.

One thing is for certain - the consequences brought on from this new supplier are deadly.

