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Florida House of Representatives**

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

***T**his issue serves as a two-part informative publication regarding some of the most relevant issues in our community today: the pill mill bust that occurred right here in Vero Beach, and Obamacare. On page two of this issue you will find in depth information about the operation headed by Indian River County Sheriff's Office that lead to the arrest of several doctors and their affiliated drug trafficking organizations. Stay tuned for an upcoming special edition issue detailing Obamacare and how it will affect you. Please also read up on important dates regarding the upcoming primary elections and the deadlines for absentee ballots and early voting. Enjoy my recalling of a recent lunch I had with a very special man, Joseph Steinitz, a 102 year old WW2 veteran, and my visit with local business, Piper Aircraft, Inc. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my district office. My staff will be glad to assist you.*

JOSEPH STEINITZ: 102 YEARS OF SERVICE



Rep Mayfield & Mr. Steinitz

I had the most wonderful lunch last week with Joseph Steinitz. Joe is 102 and the second oldest Veteran of World War II in Indian River County. He has a history of graciously devoting his personal time toward the service of others in his roles in the Taxpayers Association of Indian River County, the Rotary Club, and in assisting the elderly with tax preparation. Joe has contributed greatly to the community of Vero Beach and Indian River County, and remains active even today. We continue to benefit from his fighting spirit as well as his incredible work ethic. Joe is truly an inspiration to myself and to everyone he meets, and I am looking forward to our next date on February 15th, 2013, to celebrate his 103rd birthday.

PIPER AIRCRAFT VISIT

I had an opportunity recently to tour the facilities of Piper Aircraft. This aviation manufacturing company creates a complete line of aircraft, supplying custom-made planes to corporate professionals and flight training schools alike. Their business model makes certain that the bulk of the manufacturing work will remain in house, and the company remains dedicated to creating quality products. I want to commend Simon Caldecott, CEO, for the great work he has done in assembling the right team and the right vision for the continued success of Piper in our community. I will be continually engaged with Piper and other aeronautical industries to ensure that the state is aware of what is needed to provide them with a business-friendly atmosphere. In turn, this will create economic opportunities for our region. For more information about Piper, visit www.piper.com.



Rep Mayfield & CEO Simon Caldecott

Email Representative

What is a Pill Mill?

A "Pill Mill" is defined as any doctor's office, clinic, or health care facility that routinely conspires in the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances outside the scope of the prevailing standards of medical practices in the community.

Florida has lead the nation in diverted prescription drugs, resulting in seven Floridians dying every day. The proliferation of pill mills contributes to Florida being the destination for distributors and abusers.

Common characteristics of a Pill Mill include:

- Cash only/No insurance
- No appointments
- Armed guards
- Little to no medical records
- Grossly inadequate physical exams
- Large prescription doses of narcotics, exceeding boundaries of acceptable medical care

For more information on the Pill Mill Initiative, click [here](#).

Technology Corner:

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FLORIDA'S PILL MILL INITIATIVE

The Florida Legislature has worked with Attorney General Pam Bondi to take a hard line approach to the illegal prescription drug abuse trade. With the passage of [HB7095](#), Florida bans dispensing of certain controlled substances by practitioners, limits the dispensing of these prescription drugs to certain kinds of pharmacies, and promotes a stringent minimum standard of care. Since the passage of this bill in 2011, the DEA now ranks Florida as housing 13 of the top 100 oxycodone purchasing physicians in America, down from 90 the year prior. For over two years, the State of Florida and Attorney General Pam Bondi has worked diligently in conjunction with the Federal DEA authorities in investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators of the prescription drug abuse that has characterized much of the state. The statewide Pill Mill Initiative ensures that the issue is adequately addressed by all branches of government.

OPERATION: PILL STREET BLUES

I want to extend my congratulations on a job well done to our state and local law enforcement entities, especially to the Indian River County Sheriff's Office led by Sheriff Deryl Loar, for their collaborative efforts and their dedication to bringing pill mills to justice. I am happy to report that much of those efforts culminated in the successful bust of several pain management clinics ("pill mills") around the state, including Stuart Pain Management Clinic in Vero Beach. Through a series of inspections, which included undercover visits to clinics and interception of phone conversations between offending parties, a total of 14 defendants were arrested, 59 bank accounts totaling \$1.1 million were seized, and 13 search warrants have been executed around the state. The prosecution will take place in the State Attorney's Office 19th Judicial Circuit by the Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution.

While the investigations have been helpful in bringing forward necessary evidence for an arrest, they also provide the general public with information about the operations of these seedy businesses. Far from generating patient care, these clinics make money from promoting direct harm to patient health and the community at large. Many continued to prescribe high levels of pain pills despite patients showing no trace of it in their drug screens. In one case, a particular "patient" reported being told by another doctor that he was addicted to oxycodone, and the offending doctor went on to prescribe him even more oxycodone instead of drug treatment. These are just some of the red flags a person needs to consider when seeking pain management advice. Please report any suspected abuses to your local law enforcement agencies.

2012 ELECTION PRIMARY IS AUGUST 14TH

EARLY VOTING for both Indian River County and St. Lucie County will take place **August 4th-11th** from 8am-4pm.

Indian River County Locations: Supervisor of Elections Office, Indian River Main County Library, Sebastian City Hall.

St Lucie County Locations: Supervisor of Elections Office, Morningside Branch Library, PSL City Hall, Zora Neale Hurston Library

ABSENTEE BALLOTS for both Indian River County and St. Lucie County must be received by the Supervisor by **August 8th** at 5pm.

Find more information at: www.voteindianriver.com, or <http://slcelections.com>