

LOCAL & STATE



The Miami Herald



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IN MY OPINION
Fred Grimm
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Legislature greased skids for builders

The measure of the lie about how growth management has stifled Florida's economy comes to a stark three billion — three billion square feet of stores, malls, offices, approved for construction. Most of them yet to be built.

The permits languish, like the rest of us, in a rotten economy.

The Department of Community Affairs, the state's growth-management agency, approved three billion square feet of commercial retail space between 2007 and 2010. Along with a million more housing units.

"The number of commercial and housing developments approved by DCA but not yet built is staggering," said Richard Grosso, a law professor who directs the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic at Nova Southeastern University.

Developers have DCA's blessing to build the equivalent of, say, 3,000 million-foot regional shopping malls. Except they need financing. And consumer demand. Neither of which exist. It seems a mighty stretch to blame DCA for keeping our poor builders down.

Yet the Legislature rallied behind bills this session that, if the governor signs them, would emasculate DCA, roll back state oversight and undo a years-old regime of growth-management laws. "The stated purpose was to create jobs," said James C. Nicholas, emeritus professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Florida. But Nicholas pointed out that the state has a such a hefty surplus inventory of unsold homes on the real estate market that years may pass before Florida revives home construction.

Only then, he said, will Floridians understand the impact of the 2011 legislation. "The old problems will reappear and the public will recognize that it has crowded schools, crowded roads, and all the frustrations that brought us the first round of legislation. What comes around, goes around."

Growth management evolved out of an angry realization in the 1970s and '80s that taxpayers had been stuck with paying for the infrastructure of new suburb developments — while the builders made off with mighty profits.

State oversight was also designed to protect the public interest from the undue influence developers and lobbyists wielded over city and county commissioners considering major projects. "One of the original reasons the state adopted the Growth Management Act was to put a sort of check on local temptations," Grosso said. "Local temptations, the local politics, the local money."

Corruption scandals in Broward and Palm Beach counties over the past two years make the need for those safeguards seem as urgent as ever.

Developers, without the bother of state approval, will be able to grease their way across Miami-Dade's urban development boundary, onto Palm Beach County's agricultural reserve and into farmland, orange groves, woodlands and swamps once guarded by DCA.

Except there's no demand. Charles Pattison, president of 1,000 Friends of Florida, said that in this economy, the environmental degradation and sprawl and traffic and overcrowded schools that the Legislature just OK'd may be years coming. Along with all those mythical jobs.

[MiamiHerald.com/columnists](#)
Read Fred Grimm's past columns.

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS

School pay: Cut from the top

■ High-level school administrators — even the district's superintendent — will see their compensation packages trimmed to save money.

BY KATHLEEN MCGRORY
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Days after Florida lawmakers slashed education funding, the Miami-Dade School Board scaled back its salaries for top administrators, principals and schools police supervisors.

The action, approved at Wednesday's School Board meet-

ing, will save \$500,000 this year and generate millions of dollars in savings in the future, Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said.

"This is tough medicine, but we're dealing with very tough times that require tough action," Carvalho said.

The salary reductions come on the heels of the Florida Legisla-

ture's just-ended session, during which lawmakers cut the statewide education budget by \$1.1 billion. Each district will receive \$542 less per student than last year — a cut of almost 8 percent.

The Miami-Dade district is bracing for a budget shortfall of about \$90 million.

Likewise, Broward is grappling with how to slash \$140 million from its upcoming budget. While no decisions have been made, Broward leaders are considering closing un-

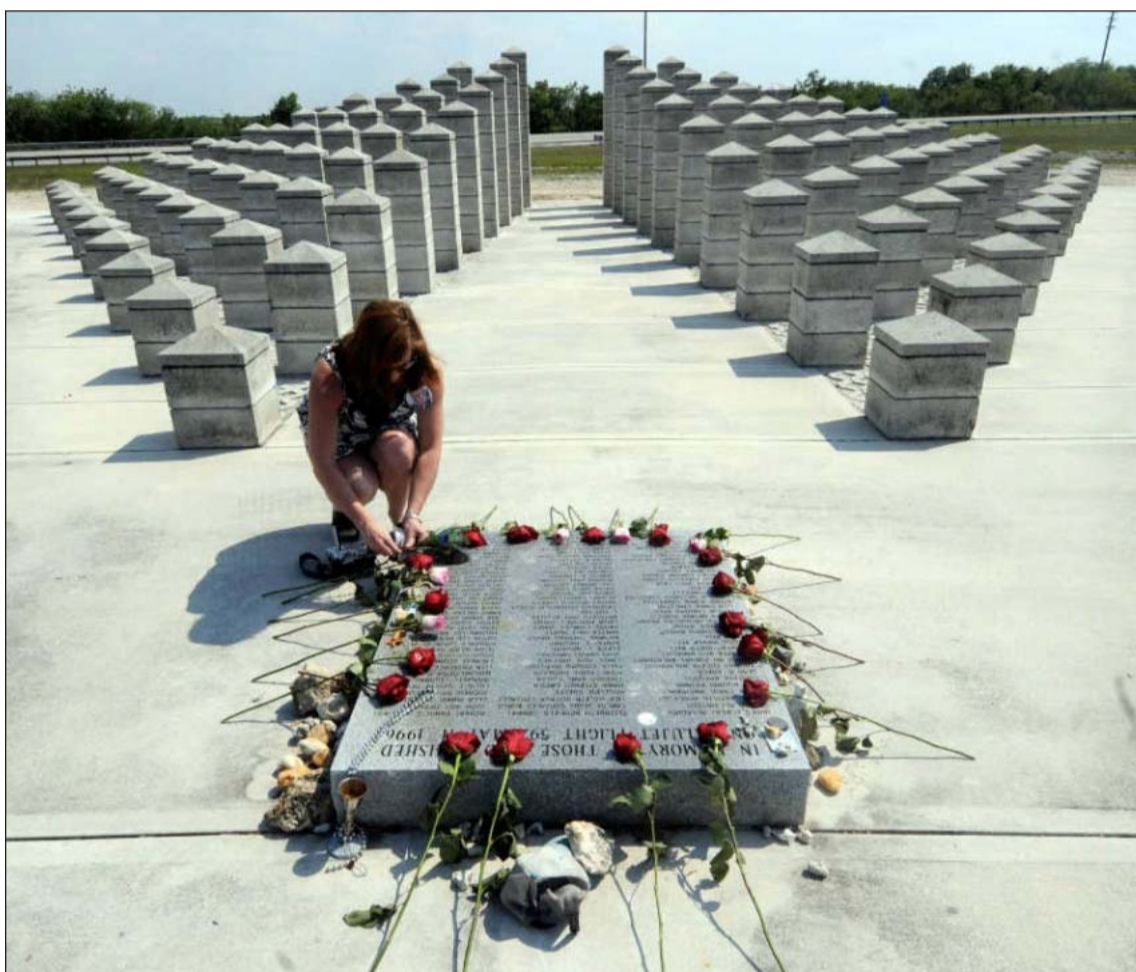
der-enrolled schools and imposing furlough days for all employees.

Last month, the Miami-Dade School Board approved eliminating 200 jobs from its maintenance and construction departments, and hundreds of maintenance workers took a 20 percent pay cut, saving

• TURN TO SCHOOL PAY, 6B

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Read more education news

VALUJET FLIGHT 592 CRASH



PHOTOS BY PETER ANDREW BOSCH/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

DAUGHTER'S SORROW: Robin Steinbrenner visits a memorial near Tamiami Trail honoring ValuJet Flight 592 crash victims Wednesday. Her father Fred Steinbrenner died in the crash.

15 years after crash, sting of loss still lingers

Family members of those killed in the 1996 crash of ValuJet Flight 592 gathered to honor lost lives.



STILL HURTING: Robin Steinbrenner and husband Ben Grove share a moment for her dad, Fred Steinbrenner.

BY SERENA DAI
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Fifteen years is a long time — long enough for memories to fade, for wounds to heal.

But it is not long enough for Barbara Baker, who can't forget the pain and anguish of losing her son in the crash of ValuJet Flight 592.

Baker's son, Sean, would be 44 now. Perhaps he'd have his own family. Instead, Sean's warm face is frozen at 29 years old, immortalized on the T-shirt Barbara wore to a lunch on Wednesday for victims' families at the Hyatt Miami at the Blue in Doral.

On May 11, 1996, Sean hopped on the plane for a quick trip to Atlanta to do a project in a music studio. Music was his first love. It was the first time he had flown out of Miami International Airport. Barbara expected him to be back the next day, in time for Mother's Day.

She had two children, and "Sean was the baby," she said. "It seems like it's just the other day that he died."

The plane took off from Miami Inter-

• TURN TO PLANE CRASH, 2B

SCOTT ROTHSTEIN CASE

Ponzi schemer's wife gives it all up — almost

■ As part of a settlement, Kim Rothstein agreed to turn over much of the property seized from the couple's homes, including designer clothes, and her retirement fund.

BY JON BURSTEIN
Sun Sentinel

The wife of Scott Rothstein will give up much of the couple's belongings in a deal she cut with the attorneys cleaning up her husband's \$1.4 billion Ponzi scheme.

Kim Rothstein will keep some clothing and household items, but is relinquishing her rights to almost all of the high-end purchases taken out of their homes in Flori-

da, New York City and Rhode Island, according to court records filed Tuesday.

Gone are the Zola Keller designer dresses, the pairs of Jimmy Choo and Christian Louboutin shoes, and much of the couple's 240-bottle wine collection. She kept a pair of Coach sunglasses out of the 22 pairs of designer sunglasses found in her bedroom closet, according to court records.

"She's turning over the bulk of the estates," said her attorney, Michael Seese. "I think she is looking forward to getting on with her life and putting this behind her."

No dollar amount has been attached to the items she relinquished.

Attorneys handling the bankruptcy of Scott Rothstein's law firm, Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler,



KIM ROTHSTEIN

sued her in March 2010, claiming she owed \$1.1 million to victims of her husband's financial fraud.

The bankruptcy attorneys discovered, though, that after the federal government finished its seizure of Scott Rothstein's homes, cars and business holdings, his wife had no money to take.

"We got everything we thought we could get from her," said Charles Lichtman, an attorney for bankruptcy trustee Herbert Stettin.

• TURN TO ROTHSTEIN, 5B

CAMPAIGN 2011 | MAYOR

Cancio commits to slicing county spending

■ Jose 'Pepe' Cancio says he wants to be Miami-Dade County mayor long enough to fix problems, then step out of the way to make room for a fresh face.

BY TANIA VALDEMORO LONGEST
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This is the sixth in a series of profiles of candidates for Miami-Dade County mayor.

It has been almost a decade since he was at County Hall, but Jose "Pepe" Cancio knows what it is like to fill in for a politician ousted from office.



CANCIO

On May 3, 2002, Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him to replace former County Commissioner Miriam Alonso after she was charged with exploiting her office and stealing from her campaign coffers. For six months, Cancio represented District 12, which includes portions of Doral, Sweetwater, Hialeah and Hialeah Gardens.

He did not run for the seat when his term ended, saying he was not interested in becoming a career politician.

If he is elected mayor May 24, Cancio promises not to run for reelection in 2012. He said running for a full term would distract him from balancing the county budget and reducing the size of its government.

"I want to serve the community as I did before," Cancio said. "I can bring stability and calm."

At age 72 the oldest of the 11 mayoral candidates, Cancio touts his experience in leading a private business and creating jobs. He has been the chief executive officer of Central Concrete Supermix for

• TURN TO CANCIO, 2B

[MiamiHerald.com/miami-dade](#)

Read profiles of other mayoral candidates.

FLA. LOTTERY RESULTS

DRAWN WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Midday Cash 3	0-3-5
Midday Play 4	7-7-2-4
Night Cash 3	3-3-4
Night Play 4	5-9-8-2
Lotto	See flalottery.com
Fantasy 5	See flalottery.com
Powerball	See flalottery.com

TUESDAY, MAY 10

FANTASY 5: 2-7-15-28-31

CORRECT	PAYOFF	WINNERS
5 of 5	\$42,142.70	5
4 of 5	\$106	320
3 of 5	\$10.50	8,805

MEGA MONEY: 10-11-28-31 + 6

CORRECT	PAYOFF	WINNERS
4 of 4+1	Rollover	0
4 of 4	\$1,181	6
3 of 4+1	\$345	45
3 of 4	\$43.50	1,060
2 of 4+1	\$23	1,386
2 of 4	\$2	31,619
1 of 4+1	\$2.50	11,133

Next Jackpot: \$1.2 million

MONDAY, MAY 9

FANTASY 5: 9-19-30-32-36

CORRECT	PAYOFF	WINNERS
5 of 5	Rollover	0
4 of 5	\$555	250
3 of 5	\$22.50	8,279

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DANIEL SHOER ROTH | VIEW FROM EL NUEVO HERALD

An assault on civil liberties in Fla.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott considered his first legislative session a total success, a stellar beginning to his ideology turned into policy.

If leaving nearly 5,000 state employees jobless, cutting state benefits for unemployed Floridians, taking away \$1.1 billion from public schools, and eliminating consumer protection through deregulation are an indication of success, then the dictionary should change its definition of the word promptly.

But if we apply the official meaning of the word "success," then Tallahassee's principal success was a brutal assault on the civil liberties of Floridians.

In his eagerness to push a political agenda that undermines critical constitutional values, Scott and Republican legislators restricted free speech and voters' and women's rights, and, even worse, they endangered the sacred concept of church-state sep-



IN MY OPINION

Daniel Shoer Roth

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aration.

This separation has been one of the pillars of modern democracy. Legislators nonetheless passed a ballot proposal to strike a one-and-half century-old provision in the Florida Constitution, allowing the government to interfere in religious liberty, including the funding of religious institutions.

"It is a dangerous temptation," said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida. "Government money comes with government strings, and the most effective way to protect religious liberty is to keep the government out of the affairs and management of religious institutions."

Likewise, the elimination of the clause would allow fundamentalist or racist

groups to qualify for public funding, while at the same time enabling discrimination and favoritism of one religion over another.

Floridians who will decide the future of "separation of church and state" will have been deprived of some of their voting rights by the time they cast their 2012 ballot. A change in Florida's election law makes it harder to register to vote and limits access to voting, reducing days of early voting from 14 to eight.

If you moved because you are a student or changed your last name after marrying, you will not be allowed to update your information on Election Day, and thus you will not receive a normal ballot but rather a provisional one. Voting rights advocates note that only half of provisional ballots end up being counted.

And even more worrisome is a provision in the law that adds more obstacles to citizens' petitions to

amend the state Constitution by reducing the validity of signatures on a ballot initiative from the current four to only two years. In such a short period of time it's practically impossible to develop a state level campaign and obtain the required signatures. The Legislature wants to tie our hands to make necessary constitutional changes impossible.

Instead of focusing on giving better access to information and birth-control methods; strengthening crime prevention and thus reducing the number of rapes; and improving and emphasizing sexual education programs, legislators enacted laws to put an array of new obstacles in the paths of women seeking abortions, which would take us back decades. They also placed on the 2012 ballot a proposal prohibiting the use of tax dollars for abortion and restricting the right of privacy for women who choose to have an abortion.

Legislators tried to restrict physicians from asking patients about the presence of firearms at home. But they could not apply the gag order outright and at the end doctors will be allowed to bring up the issue only if they consider the information necessary for medical care. Doesn't it sound like a free speech restriction?

Add to that a new law that requires mandatory drug testing for welfare recipients. It's an intrusive search which, in the absence of suspicion, is a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects everyone from unreasonable searches.

"It is the type of big government that you would think tea party folks would be up in arms against," said Simon.

With Scott as governor no civil liberty is safe. He might not take us back to medieval times, but it sure is scary.

VALUJET FLIGHT 592 CRASH

For families of crash victims, pain persists

• PLANE CRASH, FROM 1B

national Airport for Atlanta and rose over the Everglades. A fire ignited among the oxygen-generating canisters in the 27-year-old plane and it plunged into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

The disaster led to the first U.S. criminal prosecution related to an airplane crash. Now, passenger planes must have fire suppression and detection.

On Wednesday, the National Air Disaster Foundation, a support and lobbying group for the families of crash victims, organized a visit to the memorial site north of Tamiami Trail.

The few family members who showed up for the lunch beforehand shared in the pain of lost loved ones.

Mary Robin Steinbrenner's father, Frederick James Steinbrenner, Jr., was supposed to take an earlier flight but took 592 so he could spend more time with his aunt. He died at 62. Tears welled up in her eyes as she described the day she went to pick up his casket with her siblings.

The sky was calm and

A fire ignited in the 27-year-old plane and it plunged into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

clear — not unlike Wednesday's weather — and a white crane stood in the middle of the crash site during prayers, following the casket all the way to airboats.

"To this day, wildlife is a sign of my father," said Steimbrenner, who lives in Atlanta. "He lived in Miami for 10 years. A part of him is always here."

For 14-year-old Robert Woodus, his grief was one he did not entirely understand. He was born eight months after his father died in the crash. At the time, his mother, Patrice Bowman, was a student at the University of Miami, along with his father, who was also named Robert Woodus.

Bowman still lives in Miami and occasionally visits



DISASTER: Herald coverage of the ValuJet crash. It was eventually determined that 110 were on board.

the memorial site. Not that she needs a reminder; her son is enough.

"[Robert] looks just like his father," Bowman said. So much so that when a

friend of the father saw young Robert, the friend got on his knees and began to cry, Bowman said. Understanding the grief of a grown man is not easy for a kid, she said.

She keeps newspaper clippings from the crash in hopes that one day her son will want to know more.

Jean Brandt got over her anger at ValuJet for its role in her son's death years ago. On Wednesday, her son Brad Ehrlichman's bearded face smiled from a large pin attached to her chest. He was a 20-year-old architect student at Ball State University, visiting his father in Miami for the first time in years. He would now be 35 if he'd lived.

Wednesday was the first time since his death that Brandt had been able to speak to the media.

Brandt keeps a black and white picture of her son climbing a tree in her pocketbook. On the back is a poem he wrote: "When I sleep/I know you're watching over me/When I laugh/I know you're laughing with me," it starts.

"I'll see him again one day," she said.

CAMPAIGN 2011 | MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR

Cancio: I'll cut spending, won't run again

• CANCIO, FROM 1B

the past 22 years. "I am the only CEO in this race," he said.

The company, which provides ready-made concrete, has 215 employees at eight locations in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. It had been a bigger firm, but the downturn in the economy forced Cancio to lay off 30 percent of his workers last year.

"It wasn't an easy thing to do, but I can make tough decisions," he said.

Cancio has a sizable campaign chest, \$170,650, though most of it — \$160,000 — he lent to himself. He has name recognition in the business community and among former constituents in District 12 because from 1996 to 2000 he served as a member of Community Council No. 9, which makes zoning decisions for the Doral area.

In Doral, Cancio is remembered for championing the city's incorporation when he was a county commissioner.

"He carried the torch for the final stretch of incorporation in 2002," said Felipe Madrigal, president of the Doral & Airport West Chamber of Commerce. "It should have been approved during his last meeting as a commissioner, but they postponed the vote."

Cancio said he supported Doral's bid to become a city "because the residents wanted it."

As commissioner, he also redrew the district's boundaries after Alonso had gerrymandered them to exclude such rivals as Jose "Pepe" Diaz, who ended up being elected to her seat after Cancio's term ended. And Cancio found \$5 million to build a bridge spanning the Dolphin Expressway on Southwest 97th Avenue.

"When someone had an issue, his office was always open," said Alberto Ruiz, the president of One Doral, a community group that fought for the city's incorporation who described Cancio as honest and down-to-earth.

Cancio said he would be a hands-on-mayor, but with a different style and tone from Carlos Alvarez, the mayor who was ousted by a recall vote in March.

"My business philosophy is to lead by example," he said. "I work hard, but I try to be humble and a good communicator with my people."

If elected, he said, he will slash the mayor's office budget and the mayor's \$233,123 yearly salary by half. He said he would refuse a pension or a car allowance.

He will push transparen-

'We are in a crisis. We must reduce the size of government using common sense.'

— Jose "Pepe" Cancio, candidate for mayor

cy from the top down, he said — beginning with his own office: He would install a glass door to the mayor's boardroom. When he was a commissioner, he had workers cut his door and install Plexiglas there. "I like to see inside and I like to see outside," he said.

His top priority as mayor: to balance the county's budget by dealing with its \$400 million deficit for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. He said he wants to cut the fat from County Hall starting at the top, not the bottom.

"We are in a crisis. We must reduce the size of government using common sense," Cancio said.

He intends to reduce salaries and cut the number of departments to 25 to 30, from the current 60. He pledges to open union contracts to reduce workers' benefits and pay.

"We have to come to reality. Miami-Dade County is like an elephant that has been growing too much. It needs a common-sense diet," he said.

Cancio pledged not to raise taxes. Other priorities: streamlining the permitting process and recovering \$182 million in federal money for

the county's transit department. He said he would hire Roosevelt Bradley, the transit director Alvarez fired four years ago. Bradley is running for county mayor, too.

"Bradley said he knows where the bones are buried. I would like to know where those bones are, too," Cancio said.

Cancio said he would examine money-losing Jackson Memorial Hospital's labor contracts with the aim of reducing labor costs. "It's a great hospital. It saved my life 17 years ago after I was in a car accident," he said.

When it comes to growth, Cancio said he doesn't see the Urban Development Boundary, the line that limits large-scale development along the county's western and southern flanks, moving in 18 months, but said he would consider each application on a case-by-case basis. In 2002, he voted to approve developer Armando Codina's plan to build a warehouse project west of the UDB. At the time, he said the project would clean up a fetid piece of land that had become an illegal dump and a shantytown.

Jose Arturo Cancio was born on Dec. 30, 1939, in Havana. The son of a grocery store owner, Cancio came to the United States in 1960.

He was a member of Brigade 2506, but he said he was not part of the group that invaded the Bay of Pigs in 1961. He volunteered for the U.S. Army for six months in 1962.

By 1970, Cancio was working in Brazil at Concretex, a concrete company founded by his uncle. He opened facilities in north and northeastern Brazil, and supplied concrete for General Motors and Johnson & Johnson. Cancio said he created 450 jobs in Brazil and more than 400 jobs in Miami.

By 1983, he was in Arizona as the vice president of Blue Circle West, another concrete company. In 1989, he came to Miami and founded his own business, Supermix.

"The business is very peculiar. You have to be on time and deliver service with quality and safety first," he said.

Cancio is proud of his role as an interim commissioner, and said being a caretaker now, rather than someone seeking reelection in 2012, is the right move.

"I believe that we should leave the opportunity open for new faces to come serve in government."

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