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The Gainesville Sun

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Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detain an immigrant after a court hearing at the Connecticut Superior Court on July 3 in Stamford, Connecticut. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

# Some migrants opt to speed deportation

More pleading guilty out of fear of getting stuck in system

Ana Goñi-Lessan  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

In a cold courtroom in downtown Tallahassee, Isabela Hurtado sat in a wooden pew. It had been over a month since she last saw her father.

On May 29, he was getting ready for work at a construction site near the capital city’s CollegeTown. On July 2, he was in an orange jumpsuit, shackled by the hands and by the ankles, waiting to see a federal judge.

“All I wanted to do in that moment was cry, but I had to contain myself,” Hurtado, 19, said.

She looked at her dad, Juan Hurtado Solano, who sat in a chair next to his public defender. He turned around and smiled. Minutes later, he pleaded guilty to illegally reentering the United States, a federal crime with a potential punishment of up to two years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

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A group of men from Nicaragua watch a coworker who is being detained at a construction zone in Tallahassee raided by immigration agents May 29. ANA GONI-LESSAN/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

# Critics say new law too generous

Building bans, rooster limits run afoul of builder-backed rules

John Kennedy  
Capital Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE – One county has postponed plans to ban roosters in some neighborhoods; others worry about pausing new construction or repairing damaged wetlands.

Local governments across Florida are confronting a powerful new state law this summer which critics say clearly favors developers by encouraging building and rebuilding – even in areas hit by hurricane damage and floods.

“It defies logic,” said Jamie Cole, a Fort Lauderdale attorney in discussion with several local governments about a possible lawsuit challenging the new measure.

See LAW, Page 4A

# Another forecasting tool gets scrapped

Dinah Voyles Pulver  
USA TODAY

The heart-wrenching July 4 flooding in Texas served as a stark reminder of the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

As extreme rainfall events grow more intense, such tragedies are expected to increase. Further improvement to forecasts is critical, but meteorologists worry that with the additional cuts planned by the Trump administration, the nation’s weather and climate research programs won’t be able to keep up.

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