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SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

FLORIDATODAY.COM

Slithering north



Michelle Bassis and Mayckol Martinez capture pythons during University of Florida research. Researchers want to know the best ways to find and control the invasive snakes. PROVIDED BY MELISSA MILLER/UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Python sightings in Brevard rise as invasive snake migrates upstate

Jim Waymer
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Burmese pythons, one of the state's most fearsome invasive species, have been an established presence in the Everglades for more the 25 years. • Scientists thought for years salty water, predators, public hunts or freezes might temper the snake's spread in Florida. But each new study reaffirms this reptile is made of much tougher stuff than what Florida throws its way. Pythons have been spotted in the ocean and near mangroves key bird and fish habitat. • In recent years, there have been and increasing number of python sightings in Brevard, a worrying trend, environmentalists say.

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Artemis II astronauts reflect on mission

'Global outpouring of support' surprises crew

Brooke Edwards
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Just a week after returning from their ground-breaking 10-day journey around the moon, the Artemis II astronauts say they've been overwhelmed by how closely people on Earth followed their mission - and how much it meant to everyone.

And they're still trying to fully grasp what their trip father into space than any other humans meant to them.

Hansen mentioned that he and his crewmates constantly shared a sense of smelling small as they ventured further into space.

"I kept seeing that same thing and that same feeling: small and powerless, yet powerful together," said Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen from the Canadian Space Agency.

During the flight, commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, and missions specialists Christina Koch and Hansen broke a human spaceflight distance record, performed science and lunar observations, and wowed the world with stunning images and heartfelt moments - all to set the stage for a future Artemis mission that will land humans back on the moon.

After a docking test with one or both lunar landers in Earth orbit next year during Artemis III, the Artemis IV mission is poised to land a crew on the moon. And from there, NASA vows an extensive moon base as a permanent lunar presence.

'Global outpouring of support' for crew

"When we came home, we were shocked at the global outpouring of support, of pride of ownership of this mission," Wiseman said. "And really, I think at the beginning, that's what the four of us wanted. We wanted to go out and try to do something that would bring the world together - to unite the world."

When asked if they knew the impact the Artemis II mission was having, the astronauts said they really

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