

Moon missions take a double hit

BY MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL

Astronauts will have to wait until next year before flying to the moon and at least two years before landing on it under the latest round of delays announced by NASA on Tuesday.

The space agency had planned to send four astronauts around the moon late this year but pushed the flight to September 2025. The first human moon landing in more than 50 years also got bumped, from 2025 to September 2026. NASA cited safety concerns with its own spacecraft as well as development issues with the moonsuits and landers coming from pri-

vate industry.

"Safety is our top priority," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. The delays will "give Artemis teams more time to work through the challenges."

The news came barely an hour after a Pittsburgh company abandoned its own attempt to land its spacecraft on the moon because of a mission-ending fuel leak.

Launched Monday as part of NASA's commercial lunar program, Astrobotic Technology's Peregrine lander was supposed to serve as a scout for the astronauts. A Houston company will give it a shot with its own lander next month.

NASA is relying heavily on private companies for its Artemis moon-landing

program for astronauts, named after the mythological twin sister of Apollo.

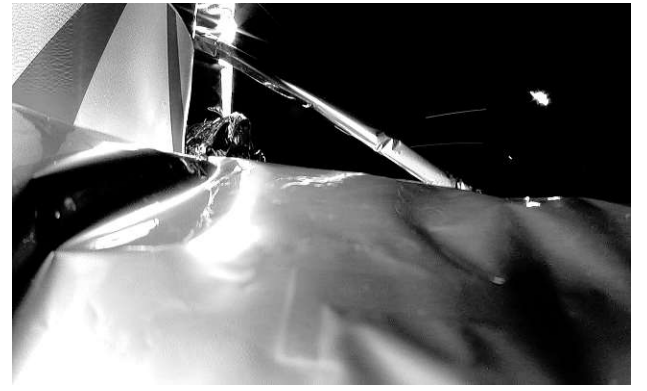
SpaceX's Starship mega rocket will be needed to get the first Artemis moonwalkers from lunar orbit down to the surface and back up. But the nearly 400-foot rocket has launched from Texas only twice, exploding both times over the Gulf of Mexico. A third test flight is planned for February.

The longer it takes to get Starship into orbit around Earth, first with satellites and then crews, the longer NASA will have to wait to attempt its first moon landing with astronauts since 1972. During NASA's Apollo era, 12 astronauts walked on the moon. The competition back then was the Soviet

Union; now it's China. Nelson told reporters he's not worried that China will beat America to the moon with a crew, even with the latest delay. Even so, "we don't fly until it's ready," he stressed.

The Government Accountability Office warned in November that NASA was likely looking at 2027 for its first astronaut moon landing, citing Elon Musk's Starship as one of the many technical challenges. Another potential hurdle: the development of moonwalking suits by Houston's Axiom Space.

"We need them all to be ready and all to be successful in order for that very complicated mission to come together," said Amit Kshatriya, NASA's deputy associate administrator. He



Astrobotic via TNS

A 'disturbed' layer of insulation in the foreground shows something was malfunctioning on a lunar lander that was launched on Monday.

added that even with the delay, a 2026 moon landing represents "a very aggressive schedule."

NASA has only one Artemis moonshot under its belt so far. In a test flight of its new moon rocket in 2022, the space agency sent an empty Orion capsule into lunar

orbit and returned it to Earth. To engineers' surprise, some charred material came off the capsule's heat shield during reentry. Later, testing of another capsule uncovered a design flaw in the life-support electronics, and separate battery issues popped up.

FROM PAGE 1A

DESANTIS

While DeSantis spoke, winds whipped outside the Capitol. Tallahassee was under a tornado warning and state offices aside from the Capitol were closed as a powerful line of storms ripped through the Panhandle.

After images of extensive destruction near Panama City rolled in, DeSantis issued a state of emergency for 49 counties. He later held a news conference at the state's emergency operations center in the afternoon.

"I think tropical-storm-force winds on opening day must be good luck — kind of like rain on your wedding day," Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, joked earlier.

DeSantis' address was a rare public stop in Tallahassee during his presidential run. On Tuesday,

he did not attend speeches by Passidomo and House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast. Governors usually attend those speeches. he quickly left, not lingering to shake hands and absorb lawmakers' applause.

He was due in Iowa on Tuesday evening for a Fox News town hall about women's issues.

TOUTING 'LIMITED GOVERNMENT'

In a theme familiar to his campaign speeches, DeSantis contrasted Florida with the rest of the nation.

America is in a "great upheaval" and cities have "decayed," he said. Public safety in Chicago is "devastated." San Francisco is stuck in a "doom loop" that has "eviscerated the quality of life."

Florida, though, is "a refuge for freedom and sanity," DeSantis said.

The governor also spent much of Tuesday's speech portraying himself as a

small-government conservative who practices good governance — in contrast to the "recklessness of spending" by the federal government.

"We have set the standard for limited government," he said.

He mentioned twice that Florida has the fewest state employees per capita — a situation fact driven, in part, because the state has struggled to fill vacancies across government. It has so few corrections officers that members of the National Guard are filling in.

The governor has hitched his political stardom behind bold uses of state power, including suspending local prosecutors and targeting Disney after the company criticized the Parental Rights in Education legislation, which he signed in 2022 and critics call Don't Say Gay. DeSantis has also restricted classroom instruction on race and gender and made it easier

to ban certain books from schools.

His Republican opponents have called such use of state power a betrayal of conservative principles. Democrats agreed.

"Freedom of speech and peaceful protest have been curtailed, destroying constitutional protections assured by the First Amendment," Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, D-Plantation, said afterward.

Under DeSantis, the state's budget has broken records each year. The state's tax revenues have boomed, and Florida recovered quickly from the COVID-19 pandemic. But the budget has also been larger thanks to billions in federal coronavirus relief dollars that Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., urged DeSantis to return.

DeSantis has also spent millions to carry out his conservative agenda, with little public disclosure or oversight of the spending. The executive office of

the governor has grown nearly 600% on his watch, larger than any other state entity. Top officials who carry out his agenda have received extraordinary paydays. The president of New College of Florida, the roughly 800-student school that he has reshaped into a conservative bastion, has a \$1.3 million compensation package. Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo, who has championed DeSantis' anti-COVID vaccination policies, makes more than \$430,000 per year between his state salary and the University of Florida.

"Let's be clear: there is nothing 'fiscally responsible' about Ron's agenda," Florida Democratic Party Chairperson Nikki Fried said in a statement Tuesday.

LAWMAKERS' PRIORITIES

Even if DeSantis isn't touting new policies, legislative leaders have ideas

of their own.

Passidomo wants legislation boosting the number of doctors and nurses and steering Floridians away from getting treated in expensive emergency rooms. On Tuesday, she cautioned that expanding Medicaid wasn't on the agenda.

"I'm not going to spend the next 60 days re-litigating Medicaid expansion," she told senators.

In the House, Renner told representatives that he wanted to see a ban on children under 16 using social media and a prohibition on their ability to access pornography.

"Call it a culture war if you want, but it is another battle to defend common sense against those who want to obliterate the distinction between adulthood and childhood," Renner said Tuesday.

Times/Herald Tallahassee bureau reporters Romy Ellenbogen and Ana Ceballos contributed to this report.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL ZONING MEETING** on **January 24, 2024 beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider a text amendment to Section 74-157, "Hotel and Motel Use" of Chapter 74 "Miscellaneous and Supplementary Regulations," of the City's Land Development Code. The City Council will consider this item for **FIRST READING**. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166**.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-08

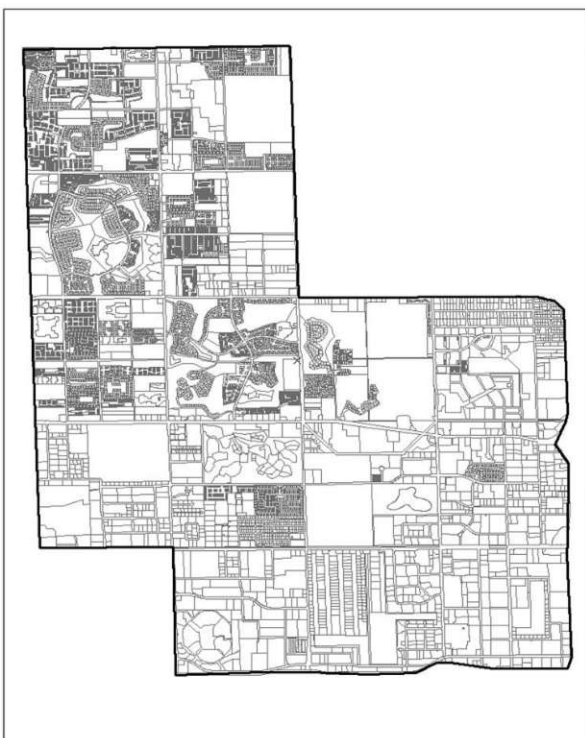
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 74-157 "HOTEL AND MOTEL USES" OF CHAPTER 74, "MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS," OF THE CITY OF DORAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE PROVIDING FOR A METHOD OF CALCULATING HOTEL DENSITY WHEN COMBINED WITH RESIDENTIAL USES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-01-DOR-08

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The Planning and Zoning Department respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve an amendment to Section 74-157 "Hotel and Motel Uses" to provide for a method for calculating hotel density when said use is combined with residential uses.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral



TOWN OF CUTLER BAY NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ NO. 23-09 "CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/DESIGN ASSIST SERVICES FOR 16-ACRE LEGACY PARK AND MUNICIPAL COMPLEX"

The Town of Cutler Bay ("Town") is requesting proposals from qualified professionals for the selection of a Construction Firm ("Firm") for Construction Management ("CM")/Design Assist Services. Interested Firms should visit the Town's website at www.cutlerbay-fl.gov to obtain the Request for Qualifications package. Qualification Packages may also be picked up at the following location, during normal business hours:

Town of Cutler Bay
10720 Caribbean Blvd., Suite 105
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Sealed submittals including one (1) original and three (3) bound paper copies of the submittal, and one (1) USB flash drive completely duplicating the original proposal of the submittals, must be received no later than **3:00 PM** on **February 2, 2024** and be clearly marked on the outside, RFQ No. 23-09, Construction Firm/Design Assist Services by Mr. Mauricio Melinu, CMC Town Clerk, Town of Cutler Bay, 10720 Caribbean Blvd., Suite 105, Cutler Bay, Florida, 33189.

Late Submittals and facsimile/electronic submissions will not be considered. The Firm shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal.

A MANDATORY Pre-RFQ meeting will be held on Tuesday January 16, 2024, at 10:00AM in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 10720 Caribbean Blvd., Cutler Bay, Florida 33189.

The meeting will also be available electronically using Zoom communications media technology platform. Registration is required. To register in advance, please visit: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wl2y8me3RTeJY45nxaNRjA

Pursuant to Town Code, Chapter 24, Article II, Section 24-228 of the Town Charter, public notice is hereby given that a "Cone of Silence" is imposed concerning the Town's competitive purchasing process, which generally prohibits communications concerning the RFQ from the time of advertisement of the RFQ until such time as the Town Manager makes a written recommendation to the Town Council concerning the competitive purchase transaction. Please see the detailed specifications for the public solicitation for services for a statement fully disclosing the requirements of the "Cone of Silence".

Pursuant to Ordinance 06-11; Town Code Chapter 8A; Section 7.6 of the Town Charter, vendors of the Town are required to disclose any campaign contributions to the Town Clerk, and each vendor must do so prior to and as a condition of the award of any Town contract to the vendor. Please see the detailed specifications of this solicitation for further details.

Women/Minority Owned and Emerging Small Businesses are invited to submit proposals on this Project.

The Town reserves the right to accept and/or reject all proposals, or parts of proposals, to workshop or negotiate any and all proposals, to waive irregularities, and to request revised/new proposals on the required materials and/or services or take any other such actions that may be deemed in the best interest of the Town.

We look forward to reviewing your submissions.

Rafael G. Casals, ICMA-CM, CFM
Town Manager