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Jeneda Benally introduces her dog Mr Happy Face on stage during the World's Ugliest Dog Competition in Petaluma, California. — AFP photos



Jeneda Benally introduces her dog Mr Happy Face to a judge during the World's Ugliest Dog Competition.



Jeneda Benally reacts to the announcement that her dog Mr Happy Face won the World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Petaluma.

Check out the world's ugliest dog, Mr Happy Face

With a tuft of punk-style hair and a tongue sticking perennially out the side of his mouth, a dog named Mr Happy Face has been crowned the world's homeliest pooch. This 17-year-old Chinese crested defeated nine competitors Friday in the World's Ugliest Dog Contest, a decades-old event held annually in Petaluma, California.

The champ was adopted as a rescue last year by a 41-year-old Arizona musician, Jeneda Benally. "During the pandemic, I had hoped to either have a baby or adopt a dog. Since having a baby would have been an act of God, I opted to adopt a dog," Benally said as she intro-

duced this one at the contest.

At the shelter she said she was told about an older dog with health problems, a creature that "could be inbred because he was so ugly." "The shelter staff tried to prepare me for what I was about to see. I saw a creature who was indeed old, needed a second chance and deserved to be loved," said the proud owner.

She said Mr Happy Face had previously lived with a person who hoarded and conditions were abominable. "He was a survivor of abuse and neglect," she said. Vets said that with his poor health the dog might only live a few weeks.

"Love, kindness and mommy kisses

have helped him defy the anticipated short life that we all expected him to have with our family," Benally added. "His hobbies include sleeping, snoring, woofing in his sleep and making odd sounds when he is happy." Contest organizers say this of the contest itself: "Dogs of all breeds and sizes have warmed our hearts and filled our lives with unconditional love. This world-renowned event celebrates the imperfections that make all dogs special and unique." — AFP



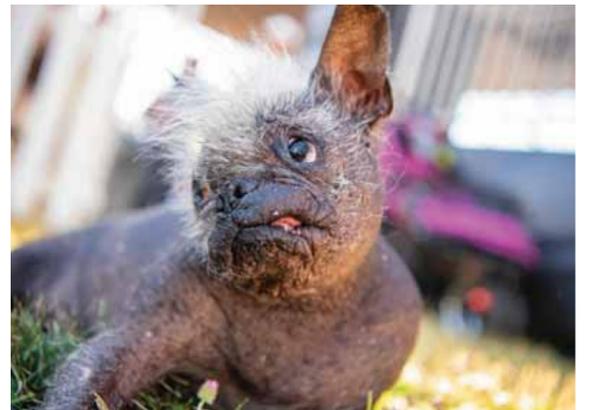
Judges react as Wild Thang is placed on their table during the World's Ugliest Dog Competition.



Ann Lewis shows off her dog Wild Thang during the World's Ugliest Dog Competition in Petaluma.



Jinny Lu-Korean Pug awaits the start of the World's Ugliest Dog Competition.



Mr Happy Face rests before the start of the World's Ugliest Dog Competition in Petaluma.

Canadian gold miners find rare mummified baby woolly mammoth

Miners in the Klondike gold fields of Canada's far north have made a rare discovery, digging up the mummified remains of a near complete baby woolly mammoth. Members of the local Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation named the calf Nun cho ga, which means "big baby animal." Paleontologist Grant Zazula said the little tyke, which retained its skin and hair, "is beautiful and one of the most incredible mummified ice age animals ever discovered in the world." "I am excited to get to know her more," he said in a statement.

The baby mammoth's remains were discovered during excavation through permafrost south of Dawson City in Canada's Yukon territory, which borders the US state of Alaska. The animal is believed to be female and would have died during the ice age, more than 30,000 years ago when woolly mammoths roamed this region alongside wild horses, cave lions and giant steppe bison.

The discovery marks the first near complete and best-preserved mummified woolly mammoth found in North America. A partial mammoth calf, named Effie, was found in 1948 at a gold mine in Alaska's interior. A 42,000-year old mummified infant woolly mammoth, known as Lyuba, was also discovered in Siberia in 2007. Lyuba and Nun cho ga are roughly the same size, according to the Yukon government. It noted that the Yukon has "a world-renowned fossil record of Ice Age animals, but mummified remains with skin and hair are rarely unearthed." — AFP



This handout image released by the Government of Yukon shows a complete baby woolly mammoth named Nun cho ga found in Yukon's Eureka Creek, south of Dawson City, Canada. — AFP

McCartney rolls back years as Glastonbury enters final day

US rapper Kendrick Lamar will bring the curtain down on Britain's Glastonbury Festival on Sunday, after Paul McCartney ran through a set of Beatles classics, helped out by Bruce Springsteen and Dave Grohl. McCartney, who turned 80 last week, on Saturday became the oldest main stage headliner of all time, and was joined by Springsteen for "I Wanna Be Your Man", while former Nirvana man Grohl came on for "I Saw Her Standing There."

The 100,000 strong crowd at the dairy farm in south west England serenaded McCartney onto the stage with "Happy Birthday", and were treated to timeless classics including "Can't Buy Me Love", "Love Me Do", "Blackbird", "Helter Skelter", "Let It Be" and "Hey Jude". The Sunday Telegraph called it "one of the most thrilling, uplifting, banger-filled" Glastonbury performances, giving it five stars. "A huge crowd of all ages spread in front of the mystically glowing Pyramid stage. Flags waved, flares blazed, voices were raised in song. The world hasn't exactly been a vision of peace and love lately, but here was the Fab One to put things right," it said.

In a four-star review, the Observer said that "the occasional lulls" in the first part of the three-hour set "rather potentiates what happens afterwards, when McCartney starts to pull out all the stops." "There's something incredibly charming about seeing the puppyish delight on the face of Springsteen... as he and McCartney trade lines," it added.

Zelensky appears

The singer-songwriter also performed a duet with his late musical partner John Lennon, whose image was projected on a giant screen, on a version of "I Got A Feeling". The coronavirus pandemic forced organizers to cancel the last two years' events, and those going this year battled three days of major rail strikes across the country to get there. Doors opened at Worthy Farm in Somerset,



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky addresses festivalgoers via a video link during the Glastonbury festival near the village of Pilton in Somerset, southwest England.

southwest England, on Wednesday, with US pop star Billie Eilish, 20, on Friday becoming the youngest ever main stage headline act.

Other big-name performers on the bill include soul legend Diana Ross, Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant, New Zealand singer-songwriter Lorde and electro-pop duo Pet Shop Boys. Meanwhile,



Beatles founder member, British singer-songwriter Paul McCartney plays the Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury festival near the village of Pilton in Somerset, south-west England. — AFP photos

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky put in an appearance on Friday, urging revelers by big screen to band together to try to stop the conflict with Russia.

Dairy farmer Michael Eavis first organized the festival in 1970, the day after Jimi Hendrix died, and fans who came to see acts including Marc Bolan and Al Stewart paid £1 each for entry and received free milk from the farm. The festival was held intermittently in the 1970s and it wasn't until the 1990s that it really began to acquire its current status.

Glastonbury was due to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020, but those plans were put on hold by the pandemic. Integral to the festival's development was the late Arabella Churchill, granddaughter of Winston Churchill, who set up and then ran the Theatre and Circus fields. As a result, the festival developed a diverse reputation and the 900-acre (360-hectare) site now encompasses various thematic areas. — AFP