

'Puppy Mountain' photo draws visitors

The Chinese riverside is now a popular tourist destination

By ELSIE CHEN
The Associated Press

When Shanghai-based designer Guo Qingshan posted a vacation photo on Valentine's Day and captioned it "Puppy Mountain," it became a sensation in China and even created a tourist destination.

Guo had gone on a hike while visiting his home-

town of Yichang in central China's Hubei province in late January. When reviewing the photos, he saw something he hadn't noticed before: A mountain shaped like a dog's head rested on the ground next to the Yangtze River, its snout perched at the water's edge.

"It was so magical and cute. I was so excited and happy when I discovered it,"

Guo said. "The puppy's posture is like it's drinking water, or it's looking at some fish. It also looks like it's quietly protecting the Yangtze River," he said.

Guo's post on Chinese social media app Xiaohongshu, or RedNote, received 120,000 likes within 10 days. On the media platform Weibo, the hashtag #xiaogoushan — Chinese for "Puppy Mountain" — drew millions of views. Dog owners started to post

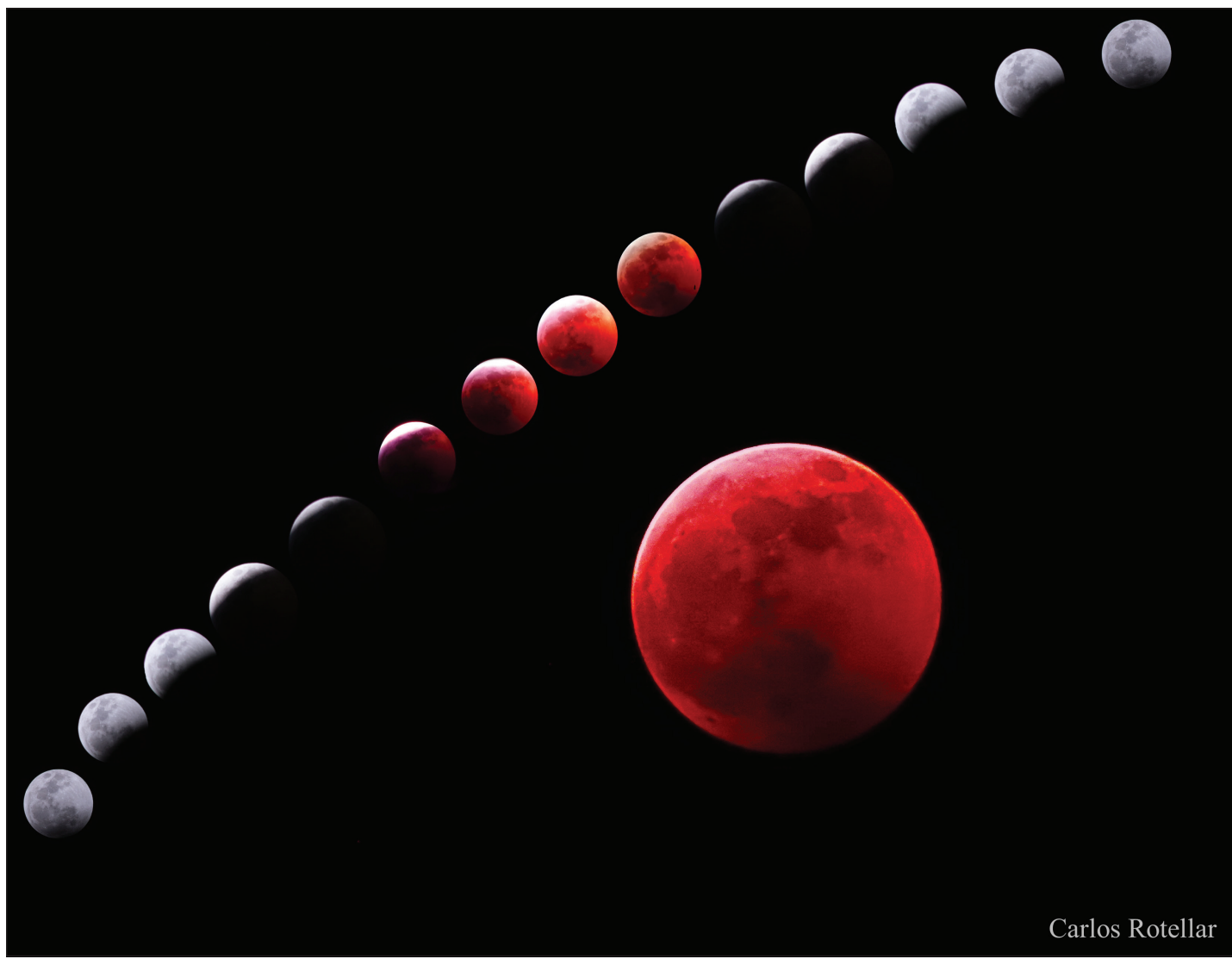
pictures of their dogs to see which one had the closest resemblance. Many people traveled directly to the location in Yichang to see the mountain for themselves and some even brought their dogs to take photos.

"Puppy Mountain here I am!" one social media user wrote on RedNote along with photos of the mountain. "Just stroke the puppy's head and then everything will be OK." Another social media user commented: "We

See MOUNTAIN, 3C



GUO QINGSHAN VIA AP
A view of the "puppy mountain" which went viral over the internet in China seen in Yichang, a city in central China's Hubei Province.



Carlos Rotellar

A composite image that shows the progression of the total lunar eclipse which occurred in 2019.

BLOOD MOON RISING

Lunar eclipse to be viewable in Bowling Green in March

On the night of March 13 to March 14 there will be a total lunar eclipse visible from Bowling Green. It will start on March 13 at 10:57 p.m., reach its maximum at 1:58 a.m. on March 14, and will end at 5 a.m. on March 14.

It will last a total of 6 hours and 3 minutes. Find more details in: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/@z-us-42103?iso=20250314>

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun cast Earth's shadow onto the moon. For this to happen, the Earth has to be physically between the Moon and the Sun and are in the same orbit plane. Lunar eclipses can only occur

during a full moon. Partial eclipses happen when the Moon passes through a portion of the Earth's shadow and a total eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through all of the Earth's shadow.

A lunar eclipse happens an average of once to twice a year. This is because Moon's orbit is tilted five degrees in relation to the earth's orbit and therefore the moon often passes above or below the Earth's shadow.

Of all the lunar eclipses, a total lunar eclipse happens 37% of the time.

This image shows the progression of the total lunar eclipse which occurred in 2019. As the eclipse progresses we can

COLUMNIST



CARLOS ROTELLAR

see the Moon being "eaten up" by the Earth's shadow. However, unlike a total solar eclipse in which the Sun disappears, during the maximum phase of a total lunar eclipse the Moon appears larger and turns red, hence the term "Blood Moon."

This happens because the light from the Sun is reflected into the moon surface by the Earth's atmosphere. Colors with shorter

wavelengths (the blues and violets) scatter more easily than colors with longer wavelengths, like red and orange.

Because these longer wavelengths make it through Earth's atmosphere, and the shorter wavelengths are scattered away, the Moon turns red. The more dust in Earth's atmosphere during the eclipse, the redder the Moon appears.

— Dr. Carlos Rotellar is a Bowling Green nephrologist who has had an interest in astrophotography and has been taking images of the universe from his driveway for several years. Website: Skyastrophotos.com.

All dogs go to heaven

The following is a true story. It happened in rural Georgia last week. The names shall remain anonymous, to protect the guilty.

A little boy walked into the little church, unannounced. It was a weekday. A country church. Clapboards. Tin roof. The kind of church that — until a few years ago — only had window-unit A/C.

The boy greeted the church secretary. He asked if he could meet with the minister. When the young man entered the preacher's office, the minister was at his desk.

The preacher is old. He's been preaching since the Vietnam War was only a rumor. He has seen a lot of things in his day. Including the death of a spouse and a firstborn.

"What can I help you with, son?"

"I need your help."

"What kind of help?"

"My dog, she just died."

The old man looked at the boy. The child had clearly been crying. His eyes were pink and red.

"When did your dog die, son?"

"Last night. She was my best friend." The preacher didn't know what to say.

"I got her from a shelter when I was a baby. She stuck with me when my dad walked out on my mom. I fed her from the table even though I wasn't supposed to. That's why she was so fat."

The preacher smiled. "Oh, it's all my fault, Preacher." The boy began to cry. "I left the back gate open. And she got out. She ran out into the road, and a car hit her. When my mom was coming home from work she found her body on the road."

The preacher hugged the child. "I want a funeral for her," the boy said. "I want the best funeral ever. I want you to preach and sing and do all you normally do for everyone else."

The boy reached into his little blue jeans and removed a wad of cash. He placed it on the preacher's desk.

"Will you do it, Preacher?"

The next morning, the preacher showed up at the little boy's house. There were two other children in attendance. The preacher wore a necktie.

The old man stood before a new hole in the ground. Nearby, there was a shovel still stuck in the dirt.

The dog was enshrined in a Star

See DOGS, 3C

Losing a pet can cut deeper than many people realize

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — Even months later, the pain of losing a pet can still hit without warning.

The trigger might be noticing — again, for the umpteenth time — how empty the house feels since your cat died, without the pitter-patter of padded paws. Or stumbling across the leash of the dog you lost and remembering how it used to set off tail-wagging glee.

Grieving owners can feel doubly lonesome if the humans in their lives don't quite know how to help, perhaps because they've not had pets themselves or feel awkward around grief.

How can owners and their friends cope better with pet

bereavement? Experts in pet loss offer these ideas:

RECOGNIZE THAT FEELING AWFUL IS NORMAL

For some grieving owners, pet loss can feel worse than a human death. That doesn't make them monsters. Instead, it reflects the potential depths of human-animal bonds.

For some people, a pet is their most important relationship, "the being that they see every single day, that maybe sleeps on their bed, that they cuddle with on the couch," says E.B. Bartels, author of "Good Grief: On Loving Pets, Here and Hereafter."

"There are people who feel more comfortable with animals than with people," she adds. "So losing those relationships can be really,



MICHEL EULER / AP
A grave for a dog named "Gazou" is seen at the pet cemetery of Asnieres-sur-Seine, west of Paris, on Feb. 21.

really difficult."

OFFER A SYMPATHETIC EAR

People who haven't experienced pet love may struggle to under-

stand what it's like to lose it. They may think they are being helpful by saying, "It was just an animal," or "They were lucky to have such a loving owner." But pat phrases,

no matter how well-meaning, can make grieving owners clam up and feel alone.

"You feel like you can't talk about it because people aren't really empathizing," says Annalisa de Carteret, who manages a telephone helpline and other pet-loss support services for Blue Cross, a U.K. animal welfare charity.

"Just allow that person to talk about how they're feeling, and you don't need to comment," she says.

Avoid clichés like, "Oh, you can get another pet" or "He had a good life, he was a good age," she says. For the owner, "that doesn't make you feel any better, because you knew all of those things. You just feel sad and just want someone to listen and to understand."

See PETS, 3C