

WOMEN SURFERS PROTEST

Coastside activist and Harbor Commissioner Sabrina Brennan, speaking for the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing, is working on behalf of women surfers seeking prize money equal to that of men surfers in the upcoming Mavericks surf contest at Pillar Point. The women surfers have appealed to the State Lands Commission and the California Coastal Commission to pressure new Mavericks owner, the World Surf League, to make the contest winnings fair and equal for all participants regardless of gender. Now that California has declared surfing as the official state sport, it seems only right that the Golden State's premier surfing contest should treat all competitors equitably.

COASTAL TRAIL

San Mateo County is working on a planned coastal trail for bicyclists and pedestrians, which will parallel Highway 1 from Devil's Slide to Miramar. The new trail will connect to an existing trail continuing into Half Moon Bay.

HOW HOT IS IT?

Climate change is making black widow spiders and wolf spiders expand their territory in northern Canada and Alaska, respectively, in response to the warming environment. In Australia, global warming is causing hungry and thirsty emus and kangaroos to wander out of their natural habitats and invade populated areas. In Japan, older men are carrying parasols to block the sun as heat waves scorch the island nation. (Source: Earthweek.com)

ROADKILL COOK-OFF

At the annual Roadkill Cook-off in the West Virginia town of Marlinton, chefs compete to see who can make the tastiest dishes with animals often found by the side of the road. Attendees wander stall to stall, indulging in the likes of fried venison wontons, snapping turtle stew, teriyaki-marinated bear, and squirrel gravy over biscuits. To be clear, it's not required that the ingredients are actual roadkill, but they must be the sort of animals that commonly find themselves the victims of traffic accidents. Think opossum, groundhog, deer, rabbit, crow, squirrel, or turkey. While contestants cannot precook their protein, they must pre-clean and pre-skin everything. Visitors strolling the grounds might see snakes sizzling on barbecue grills and thick, brown broths bubbling with black bear stew. In addition to inventive takes on local game, the event also provides an opportunity for West Virginians to poke fun at stereotypes that some assign to the region. Recipe names run from the

humorous (“Ma, them hogs are runnin’ wild in the pineapple!”) to the mysterious (“Busted Tailgate BBQ Macaroni and Cheese”). The first-place winner takes home bragging rights and \$1,200. And just who exactly is judging these unique dishes? As the cook-off’s rules stipulate, “All judges have been tested for cast-iron stomachs and have sworn under oath to have no vegetarian tendencies.” The Roadkill Cook-off is part of Pocahontas County's Autumn Harvest Festival. In addition to square dancing and live music, the festival also features a beauty pageant where contestants compete for the Miss Roadkill crown. (Source: Atlas Obscura)

GRAMMARJAMMER

A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.

SWAMI SEZ

“Hospitality means making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.” (Swami Umami)

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