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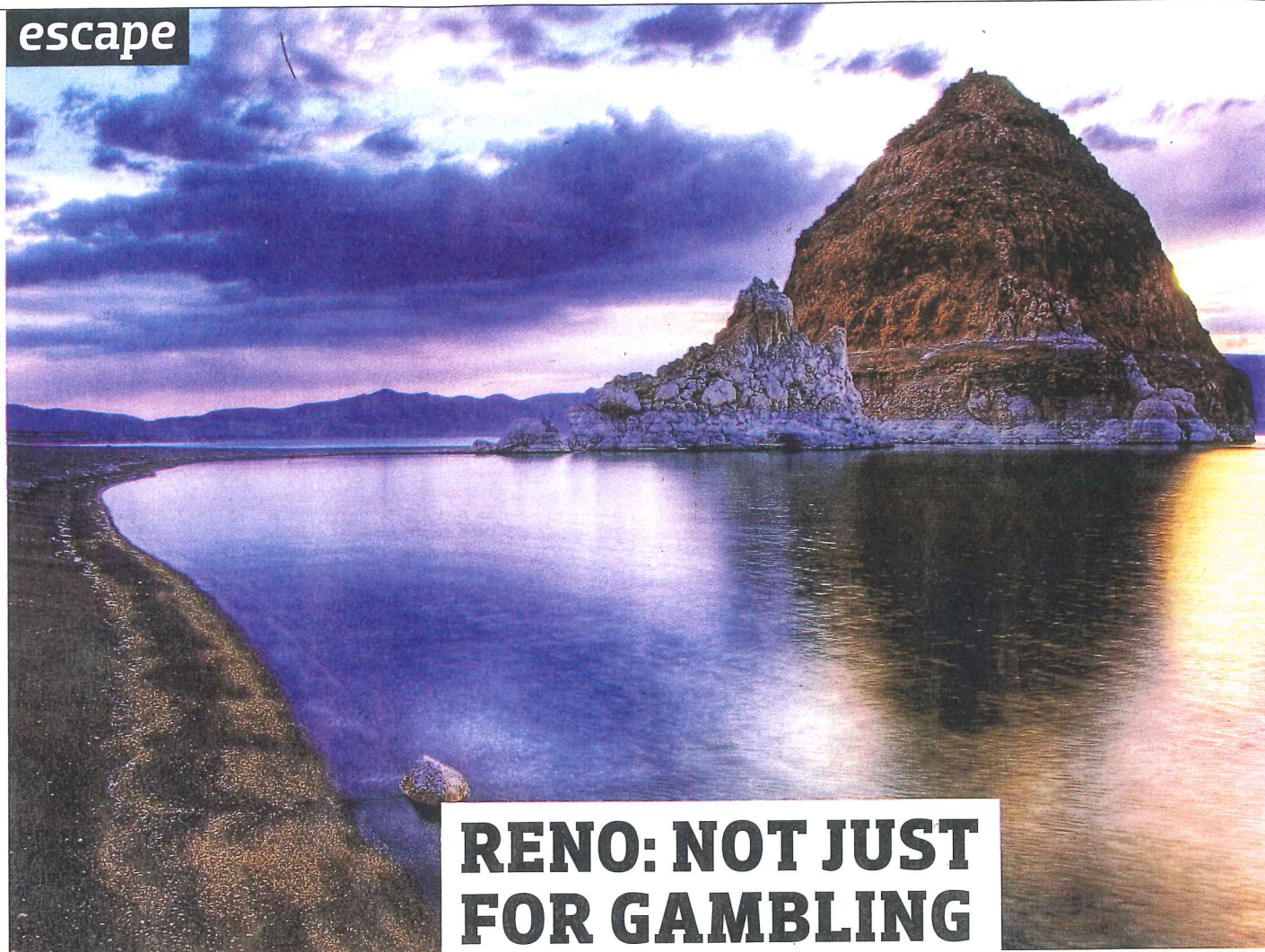
BEST dishes



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RENO: NOT JUST FOR GAMBLING

WHILE GAMING IS AS POPULAR HERE AS EVER, THIS CITY JUST OVER THE HILL FROM LAKE TAHOE ALSO BOOMS WITH ACTIVITIES BEYOND ITS CASINO STRIP. BY KIMBERLY PRYOR



Top: About 40 miles northeast of Reno, Pyramid Lake is worth the drive. Bottom: The National Automobile Museum.

When you think about Reno, the first picture that probably pops into your head is of jingling slot machines. But there's plenty to do in addition to gambling in and near The Biggest Little City in the World. The Riverwalk District—vibrant with shops, restaurants and galleries—beckons visitors who enjoy the action on the banks of the Truckee River. Also in the area: museums, a planetarium and some great hikes—even pelican encounters in the desert.

GRAB A BITE AND A SHOPPING BAG

Start your day at **Peg's Glorified Ham n Eggs** (three locations: 420 S. Sierra St., 6300 Mae Anne Ave. and 720 S. Meadows Parkway). It's the best breakfast spot in town. In fact, in 2007, *Esquire* magazine named Peg's "The Best Breakfast in America." There's usually a wait, but the huge omelets, short-stack pancakes with Bananas Foster add-on, enchilada and tamale combo plate, and other specialties are worth the time spent in line.

After breakfast, visit more than three dozen shops, boutiques and galleries along **The Riverwalk District** (renoriver.org) while watching the Truckee River flow peacefully past.

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Then stop in for a meal at **Campo** (50 N. Sierra St.), Mark Estee's new restaurant. When he was the chef at Moody's in Truckee, Estee was known for offering cuisine made from organic and locally grown and sourced ingredients. He carries over the same philosophy to his new restaurant. The menu changes daily depending on the farm-fresh ingredients available that day, but you can count on gourmet pizza cooked in a wood-fired oven imported from Italy, and pasta and salami made in-house.



Estee has opened a second Reno restaurant called **Burger Me!** (6280 Sharlands Ave.), where you can savor hamburgers

made from beef, turkey, bison, ahi or veggies and beat the summer heat with a real chocolate malt.

Craving a great New York pizza? Dine at **Grimaldi's** (off I-80 at Sparks Boulevard in the Outlets at Legends mall). The mozzarella is from free-range cows and the pizzas are cooked in a coal-fired brick oven. The staff alters the pH of the water used to make the dough to match the water of Brooklyn. They give kids dough to play with while you're waiting for your food. One fun touch: chandeliers made from wine bottles.

The calories from the pizza will energize you to explore the shops at the **Outlets at Legends**, including the

Tommy Hilfiger Company Store, The Old Farmer's Almanac General Store, Styles for Less, OshKosh B'gosh Outlet and Guess Factory Store. Kids can play in the fountains that dance in the open-air mall.

Chocoholics and shopaholics can satisfy both addictions in one place—**The Summit** (13979 S. Virginia St.), a mall on the south side of Reno. First, stop by **The Chocolate Bar** (two locations: in The Summit and downtown at 95 N. Sierra St.) for chocolate fondue or a molten chocolate lava cake with vanilla bean ice cream and strawberry chips. It can be loud at times, but it's one of the best places to go in Reno to satisfy your sugar cravings.

After your chocolate fix, visit the dozens of stores in The Summit, including Coldwater Creek, Dillard's, Old Navy, Lane Bryant, Hollister and Chico's.

If you want to follow your food around, seek out one of Reno's gourmet food trucks. The first Friday of every month, they gather at **Food Truck Fridays** (Center and Fourth streets) from 6 to 9 p.m. Consume feasts from traveling kitchens including GourMelt Grilled Cheese Truck, St. Lawrence Pizza Company and DishTruck (serving sandwiches, salads, cupcakes and giant cookies). There's also a beer garden, live music from local bands and a school bus transformed into a playground.

On other days, find the trucks by liking their Facebook pages or following them on Twitter. To see the food truck menus and find links to their Facebook and Twitter pages, visit food.visitrenotahoe.com.

Finally, a Reno culinary experience wouldn't be complete without the mushroom ravioli at **La Strada** restaurant at the Eldorado Hotel Casino (345 N. Virginia St.). ➤

LEAN, MEAN MACHINES

Hot August Nights, the largest classic car and nostalgia event in the United States, rolls into Reno Aug. 7–12. Concerts, controlled cruises, show—



n—shines, a sock hop and a parade of cars escort you back in time. (hot august nights.net)

PGA GOLF TOURNEY

Swing on over to the 14th annual Reno-Tahoe Open July 30–Aug. 5, one of only 47 stops on the PGA Tour and the only summer PGA event on the West Coast. The tournament's home, Montrêux Golf & Country Club, is a lush setting under the pines. (renotahoeopen.com)

FINGER LICKING GOOD TIME

Make no bones about it, The Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, Aug. 29–Sept. 3, is going to give you some messy but memorable moments. Sample the ribs, shop craft and vendor booths, and listen to live music. (nuggettribcookoff.com)