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Dining



Tastes: Runway Cafe

"Morning options include the Runway Two Eight Wrap and Three Egg and Cheese Omelets."

By Nicole Cheslock

I couldn't resist turning onto Truckee Airport Road for breakfast at the Runway Café on a recent morning. The cafe, true to its name, is next to the runway at Truckee Tahoe Airport in Truckee, and breakfast is served from 8 until 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

I knew I was in for a treat when I saw the fresh lunch salads at the counter, the colorful chalkboard and menu announcing "Breakfast Made Fresh & Made To Order."

With just three choices for breakfast, it wasn't hard to make a decision. I ordered the Breakfast Panini, a grilled English Muffin sandwich with eggs and cheese (\$3.95), plus avocado (extra \$1), and chose a table next to a window parallel to the runway.

Served with zesty red tomato salsa and a fruit salad complete with strawberries, cantaloupe, honeydew and grapes, the Breakfast Panini was colorful, nutritious and fulfilling.

Morning options also include the Runway Two Eight Wrap with eggs, red potatoes, tomato and onion on a spinach or whole-wheat wrap, and Three Egg and Cheese Omelets with diner's choice of bacon, ham, turkey or avocado.

Runway Café, a wonderful, well-lit destination, is especially good for anyone seeking a quiet place to work in the morning or relax over breakfast. There are nearly a dozen tables offering incredible views of the mountains and jets and prop planes coming and going. More than six outdoor picnic tables set amongst large barrels overflowing with flowers are on the other side of the cafe's windows, and the food is great.

Lunch items also feature fresh ingredients and lots of flavor. The menu lists a variety of sandwiches including Paninis, gyros and pitas, plus tempting daily specials like lasagna and stuffed peppers. In addition, the café has daily soup and chili offerings including New England Clam Chowder, Four Bean Veggie Chili and White and Black Bean Chicken Chili.

Activity picks up at lunchtime, and to-go orders are plentiful as many pilots and their passengers pick up things en route to their final destination.

In addition to the café that is open to the public, good things are happening at this small community airport. The local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association offers a monthly pancake breakfast and free local airplanes rides for youth between the ages of 8 and 17 who have never flown in a small airplane.

The next Pancake Breakfast and Young eagle flight day will begin at 8 a.m. and last until around 10 a.m. on Oct. 8. All flights are subject to plane and pilot availability, as well as weather conditions. Reservations are appreciated, but not required. For more information, visit www.eaa1073.org.

In just 20 minutes a handful planes touched down or took off. I'll definitely be back – next time with a friend.

Runway Café is located at the Truckee Tahoe Airport, 10356 Truckee Airport Road, in Truckee. The café is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends through the end of September. Call for weekend hours of operation starting in October. For more information, call the Runway Café at (530) 582-9351 or visit www.runwaycafe.biz.

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