

Times are Tough, a Good Dinner Idea

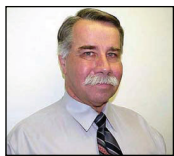
Many of us have been caught up in the economic dilemma that we are in with our State and our Country. Face it, money is tight for many of us.

Many of us are looking for good deals at stores, gas stations and restaurants. Things are just not like they used to be.

Often, there are a lot of those hidden secrets out there that not many people know about. You just have to keep your eyes and ears open.

Take a look at the many service clubs that are out there. Often they have a dinner night where they are open to the public. Some great dinners for a really good price. Many veterans organizations like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have dinners. Other organizations like the Elks, again, some nice dinners for a great price. Many of these places have their dinners open to the community so people can come in and have a nice simple dinner and see what the organization is all about.

I found one place and go there often, it's the VFW in West Covina. On Wednesdays and Fridays they usually have a dinner served from 6:00 to 7:00 and it is usually pretty nice. In-



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

cludes salad, dinner roll, desert and coffee. The bar is there in case you would like to have a beer or cocktail. Dinner is served in the cocktail lounge and best part is that it is only \$6.00. Drink prices aren't bad either.

Lately, they have had Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays dinners available and this starts a couple of hours earlier until 6pm.

Another fun thing that these service clubs have are the Monday Night Football Dinners where you pay one season fee for all 17 games. Here is what that VFW is offering. For \$40, you get a simple dinner which includes a drink ticket for the bar good for a well drink or domestic beer. This is about \$2.35 for the dinner with a bar drink if you come every Monday. Now you can't beat that at all. Heck, this is less than the cost of a drink and you still get food.

Sometimes, they may have a 50/50 or some other opportunity drawing to help cover the costs. At the end of the season, they usually have a Super Bowl gig with all kinds of goodies going on.

Just in case you feel you might want to check this out, the VFW is located near the freeway at 2328 W. Merced in West Covina. The number there is 626-337-2102 if you want to call and check it out.

Take some time and check out some of these places and save a few bucks on dinner and have a nice time while you're at it.

"That's Just The Way It Is!"

Irwindale Ups the Ante for Local Restaurants through Poker Tournament

Irwindale - The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new innovative program designed to drive business to local eateries. Recognizing that the current economic climate has had a tremendous impact on the restaurant industry, a task force was formed to design a new program that would showcase local restaurants.

The World of Food Poker Tour combines elements of a "taste of...", a poker tournament, and a poker run. Lisa Bailey, Irwindale Chamber President and CEO stated "After careful consideration it was determined that the popular "taste of..." events do showcase participating restaurants however they do not necessarily increase sales or encourage customers to visit the establishment. Our concept encourages players to visit the restaurants prior to the tournament which was very important to us."

"When we were told about the concept we were very excited" said Marissa Buckisch, Executive Vice President of Picasso's Café, Catering and Bakery. "We are always asked to participate

in various events for the many chambers we are members of by providing food or donations. This is the first time any chamber has approached us with a concept to bring customers to us!"

From September 8th through October 2nd, registered poker players should visit the participating restaurants; order an entrée, collect a poker chip and receive a free beverage. Bonus chips collected will be in addition to the standard buy-in that all players will receive. Some restrictions apply so contact the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce for details.

Participating restaurants include:

- Irwindale Restaurants**
- El Matador Mexican Food** 5312 N Irwindale Ave. #1D
- Mariscos Uruapan** 16034 Arrow Hwy
- Pitas to Go** 15652 Arrow Hwy
- Picasso's Café, Bakery and Catering** 6070 N Irwindale Ave # A-D
- Trendy Thai** 16030 E. Arrow Hwy
- Wasabi Japanese Grill** 15642 Arrow Hwy

- Azusa Restaurants**
- Canyon City BBQ** 347 North San Gabriel Ave.
- Chica's Place** 251 S. Irwindale Avenue
- Duarte Restaurants**
- Joe's Place** 1345 E Huntington Dr
- Roasty Toasty** 934 Hamilton Road
- Other locations**
- Avolio's Italian Restaurant** 15975 E San Bernardino Rd
- Covina**
- Pomona Valley Mining Co.** 1777 Gillette Road
- Pomona**
- Unique Piza** 180 S. Glendora Ave
- W. Covina**
- MillerCoors**, the presenting sponsor, will host the Texas Hold-em style poker tournament in the "pub" on October 2nd with professional dealers and table. Prizes will be provided for the final table players and the tournament winner. Information and registration for players, guests and additional restaurants is available on the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce website www.irwindalechamber.org.

Letters to the Editor

Opinions Are The Writer's

Right Wing Commentaries

I picked up a copy of the San Gabriel Examiner outside a local restaurant to peruse the local news as I waited for my meal. Not since I was a resident of a John Birch Society-infested area of Texas as I was growing up have I read such far right wing commentary as those offered up by Ken Ellasberg and J.J. McDonough. These two editorials are full of nothing but incendiary virioli. Both used for facts to support their insupportable positions

talking points of far right wing pundits. On the same page was a short, rapid, more progressive piece that had the effect of a deer apologizing for being a feast for rabid predators.

I've come a long way from Texas newspapers of the 1950s whose most frequent political weapon was to call people "pinkos," but apparently your paper hasn't.

Yuma Michaels
Duarte

The Health Care Brouhaha

The Health Care debates Americans are now experiencing is almost like a tragic Opera gone mad, first and foremost I really think the majority of Americans really want Public Health against the powerful lobbies of the Insurance Companies who for so many years have bought and paid for our Congress and Senate. It's now payback time and our well paid legislators are almost speechless and those appearing public ally are shouted out by Insurance lobbyists and many people in this country are too lazy to read into doing Health Care public ally as a more positive alternative.

Those same protesters are ones who are often paid to disrupt these hearings and it goes against the grain of being civi-

lized. Certainly being 37th in Health Care should have some affect on those Americans who care and as exemplified the majority of Europeans rates are much higher in Health Care than these United States.

I ask you one and all, "Have you protesters reverted to those days prior to the cave men?" even the later day cave man learned the value of helping one another no matter how bad and primitive the circumstances. One should truly question what's happening to American Politics, her values by allowing ignorance about Health Care to continue while 20,000 die each year and 47 Million have no Health Insurance.

Millford C. Walker
West Covina

Endorsing National Health Care

Of course I am for National Health Care--there are millions of people without health insurance--they need to be insured. I was one three years ago!! Nuff said. I DO however have some NICE words for your columnist J.J. McDonough--JJ: I LOVE YOUR COLUMNS--I need a really GREAT LAUGH once a week. Congressman Dreier--writing about Health Care Reform--something that his handlers at the Chamber of Commerce or Big Pharma

won't let him vote for--made one PROFOUND statement which may be interpreted as the Congressman going over to the PRO CHOICE side. In his statement on what he believes health reform must have he writes (and I quote): "Medical decisions should be made between a patient and his or her doctor--the government should not interfere". YESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!!

Mike Blumenthal
Monrovia

An Honor for Our Departed Veterans

Another very interesting article by Mr. Ogden! However, it has prompted me to ask you, Mr. Ogden, if you have ever heard of "Bugles Across America"?

If not, please google it. It is a wonderful organization started by a gentleman in Chicago who felt every veteran should have a LIVE bugler play live music at their funeral. I only wish I would have known of this organization when my husband, a Navy Veteran, passed on. I graciously donated \$100.00 to a volunteer veterans group that showed up with a "canned" version of TAPS and although they were in white shirts and black pants, they were dressed rather tastefully. To say the least, I was embarrassed for them. Bugles Across America plays in dress uniform and they play the real thing. They are wonderful. Mr. Tom Day is the man that started this organization and you can google his name, too. A very, very inter-

esting man that has dedicated his all to see that this group keeps going all over the United States.

I also just had to write regarding Mr. Ogden's column in the August 6-12, 2009 issue of the SGV Examiner. "Wedgies Aren't Fun, Ask Melvin"...was one of the funniest stories I've read in ages. I read it once and was laughing out loud and was asked what I was laughing about. As I read it aloud to the others in the room, all of us were laughing til we had tears in our eyes.

I doubt that Mr. Ogden will remember, but I recognized him at the Barry McGuire/John York concert at the Fret House in Covina and introduced myself to him. His writing is always interesting but this one was particularly funny!

Thank you, Mr. Ogden and keep up the good work!

Nancy Wyatt
La Puente

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- We also believe in accuracy in fact and context. Journalists should be accountable for any news or subjects they write about.
- We believe in growth. Therefore, complaints or mistakes erroneously committed will be entertained and investigated diligently and corrected accordingly.
- We believe in performing our journalistic work to the best of our ability and will continue to present the facts clearly and fairly.

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Clock Ticking On Home Buyer Tax Credit

First-time home buyers and those who haven't owned a home in the past three years are running out of time to cash in on the \$8,000 first-time home buyer tax credit. The deadline is November 30. If you don't close on your home by then, you'll miss out on one of the major buyer opportunities in the current housing market.

Today's tighter credit market means the days of settling on a home in two weeks are gone. Lenders are paying closer attention than ever to a borrower's financial information. In many cases, appraisals are also taking longer and things like home inspections and title searches take time. So there may be no time to waste.

"Homeownership is an investment in your future, and the temporary \$8,000 tax credit can help many of today's buyers start building that future," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist

for the National Association of Realtors® (NAR). "However, buyers should be realistic about the time it could take between beginning the home search and actually closing on the deal. Anyone who's serious about taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity should start the ball rolling soon."

In some cases, buyers are able to receive the tax credit immediately through short-term bridge loans and either increase their down payment or supplement their closing costs. A Realtor® can tell you if the bridge loan process is available to you. Not a first-time home buyer? Not a problem. Current market conditions have created a wealth of advantages for all of today's buyers, including:

- * Lots of choices--More homes on the market means buyers can negotiate better prices and terms.
- * Low interest rates--Mort-

gage interest rates remain historically low, making borrowing more affordable for potential home buyers.

* Affordability--Home prices are more affordable now than they have been in decades, according to NAR's Housing Affordability Index.

These conditions, however, are temporary. Recent housing statistics and trends show signs that the market may have already hit bottom. Prices in many areas have stabilized and are rising again.

"Today's buyers are staying well within their budget and realizing this is an incredible opportunity to own a home of their own," said Yun.

For more information, contact a Realtor® or visit www.realtor.org/2009housingtaxcredit.(NAPSI)

The San Gabriel Valley Examiner welcomes letters in good taste on any subject.

Priority is given to letters exclusive to the San Gabriel Valley Examiner.

All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, address and daytime telephone number, should be on a single subject and kept to 250 words or less, although we may run letters of longer length. Letters of any length are subject to trimming and editing. Writers are limited to one letter per month. All letters and articles to the Examiner may be published or distributed in print, electronic and other forms.

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