

WINDBER MAN PREPARES FOR IRON DOG RACE IN ALASKA

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Who says you have to go broke to get a good meal? You'll be amazed at how much you can get for right around \$20.



You can grab the taste of a famous Primanti Brothers sandwich without the trip to Pittsburgh at CK's Wings-n-Things in Ferndale.

For the savvy spender, finding the most for your money is important.

CK's Wings -n- Things, in Ferndale, offers loads of variety at their take-out only establishment. Best known for their vast amount of wing flavors, this is one place where you can get food fit for a king, and then some. The menu begins with their sandwiches, which start at \$3.50 (toppings extra). In addition to the usual fare, like burgers and chicken sandwiches, CK's steps it up a notch with their Italian and steak paninis, as well as their signature sandwiches, like the burger with egg, cheese and chili for \$5. They even have their own version of Pittsburgh's Primanti Brothers: loads of coleslaw and fries piled on top of your choice of sandwich, without the two-hour drive to the 'Burgh.

CK's also has a "Tons-o-Fries" menu with steak fries, southwest steak fries and chili cheese fries for around \$6, or you can create your own seasoned fries by choosing from 35 different seasonings. Tex-Mex, Onion Garlic or Magic Dust, anyone?

Ethnic foods grace the menu, too, as they carry items from That Pierogi Place, which are usually only available in the grocery store. They're served hot and ready for you to chow down. You can also choose from gyros and homemade soups, or try the chili, which boasts the blue ribbon from the 2000 and 2001 "Engine House of Blues Chili Cook-Off." Be aware, it is 5-alarm, so you may want to keep some water handy.

Besides the wings, CK's pizzas are some of the best sellers on the menu. Their traditional white pizza is crunchy and garlic-y with hot, melty cheese. Their barbecue pizza is a "must-try" according to the menu. They even brag over their "DEATH PIZZA" for the hot-heads: a hot and spicy sauce with nothing but hot peppers and Monterey jack cheese. Or you can combine their chili and the pizza with the Mexican pizza, topped with salsa, chili, cheddar, tomatoes, onions and peppers. If that doesn't sound like your taste, there are plenty of toppings available to make even the strangest requests possible, and all of their pizzas range from just over \$10 to around \$17.

As for the wings, well, that's a completely separate menu. With all the choices (1,125 to be exact), they have to have room for themselves. With flavors like barbecue and butter garlic, there are options for the traditional wing lovers among us. But, there are some flavors that may make traditionalists quake in their boots. "Death Wish III," "Suicide" and "Nuclear Hell" — if you're adventurous enough, by all means go for it!

It would take up too much room to list all of the flavors, but they do have a handy-dandy heat scale that will tell you exactly what you're in for. Wings are only \$7.50 or \$8.50 a dozen, depending on the flavor. So, two dozen wings, two people, no problem. That's a meal in itself and definitely under \$20.

Another entertaining place to get a great meal for about \$20 is The Boulevard Grill. With live music many nights of the week and food specials every day, you get a lot for your money.

Sunday is steak and fries night for \$13.99 or your choice of a cheese pizza and a pitcher of your favorite domestic draft for \$12. Mondays are a taste of home with either turkey dinner or meatloaf for \$12.99. Tuesdays at the Boulevard are rib nights. A half rack of ribs and a whole pound of shrimp for just \$14.99! On Wednesdays, two people can choose from a list of scrumptious dinners for only \$24.99 — including a salad and dessert! And don't forget the SFSD nights on Thursdays. Get a sandwich, fries, slaw and a domestic draft of your choice for right around \$10.

Make sure to check their website — www.blvdgrill.com — they're always coming up with new specials and features. Plus you get the atmosphere, too!

While these are just a few of the great places to find food deals, always be on the look-out for specials that will help you save while still getting the same quality and price. Though nobody ever has to know it isn't costing you a fortune, you might not be able to keep the savings a secret! So, next time you're planning a date night, whether it be with a significant other or just a girls' day out, check out where you can get the best deals on food, without skimping on the quality. **JM**