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JULY 18 BMOP MOMS NIGHT OUT

JULY 22 A NIGHT WITH THE CORONER

JULY 24 LADIES NIGHT - LEARN TO PLAY POKER

JULY 25 STAND UP COMEDY NIGHT

JULY 31 EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

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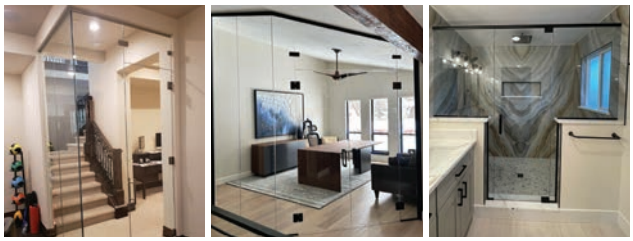
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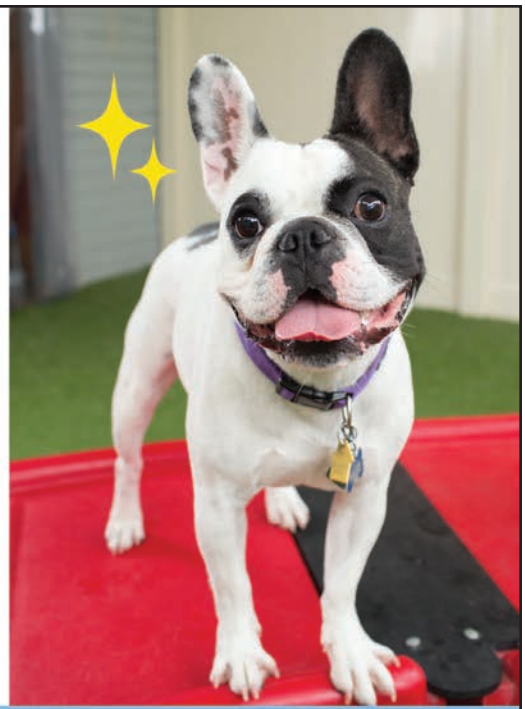
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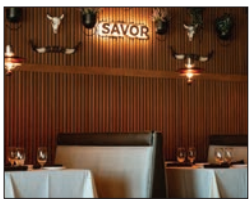
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THE BUSINESS BEAT

NOW OPEN

A steakhouse, Colorado's first 85°C bakery and a Southlands sweet spot.



Savor Bar N Grill

Savor serves prime ribeyes, bone-in cowboy steaks and filet, alongside lobster ravioli and seared salmon, and makes its bread, sauces and desserts from scratch. Executive chef Muthu Pandy brings a résumé that spans hotel kitchens, restaurants, and cruise ships.

6676 S Parker Rd · (720) 446-0799 · savorsteakhouse.com



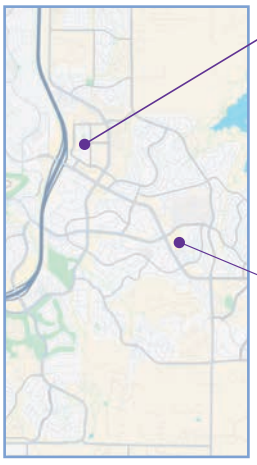
85°C Bakery Cafe

Colorado's first 85°C, and the Taiwanese chain's 100th U.S. store, is open in the H Mart center at Parker Commons. Expect dozens of breads, cakes and pastries baked through the day, plus its signature sea-salt coffee.

2767 S Parker Rd · 85cbakerycafe.com

COMING SOON

New businesses opening soon in Aurora.



Sourdough & Co. - OPENING DATE TBA

This California sandwich chain bakes its menu around San Francisco-style sourdough and is adding a Southlands shop. Clam chowder is on every day, and you can get it in a bread bowl.

6295 S Main St, Southlands

Masala Magic - OPENING DATE TBA

An independent, sit-down Indian restaurant is in the works at Serenity Ridge, the King Soopers Marketplace center off Smoky Hill Road. Owner Gurinder Singh Gill hasn't shared a menu or date yet.

25791 E Smoky Hill Rd, Unit 40

FOND FAREWELL

Thanks for the memories.

Movie Tavern, Hampden Avenue

Dinner and a movie in one seat came to an end on Halloween. Movie Tavern opened on Hampden in 2007 and was Marcus Theatres' only Colorado location.



Thankful For Local

Thanksgiving is a season for looking around the table, and around the neighborhood, and recognizing the people who make life good. In Aurora South, that list should include the folks behind our locally owned businesses.

BY **STEVE CLARK**

Our corner of Aurora has grown up quickly. New rooftops stretch east along E-470, and familiar names fill the big shopping centers. But tucked among them are independent businesses run by people who live here, raise families here and chose to bet on this community. When we spend money with them, it doesn't disappear to a distant headquarters. It stays close, supporting local jobs, local causes and the people we see at school pickup.

This season, we want to say thank you to six of them.

The Local, began as a one-season holiday pop-up at Southlands. Customers loved it so much they asked Jill and Jason Williams to keep it open year-round. Today the shop is packed with Colorado-made treats, salsas, apparel and handmade gifts, and the Williams family also runs the Southlands farmers market.
6205 S. Main Street

Tabitha and Jacob Wickline started with a mobile espresso cart at that same farmers market. That cart grew into **Legends Coffee**, bringing big-city specialty coffee to the suburbs with beans from Colorado roasters.
24100 E. Commons Avenue

Calla Vie Boutique brings one-of-a-kind women's fashion, accessories, gifts and shoes to Southlands, in sizes from extra small to 3X.
6150 S. Main Street, Suite I-102



PHOTO: THE LOCAL

PHOTO: PARKER PANACHE

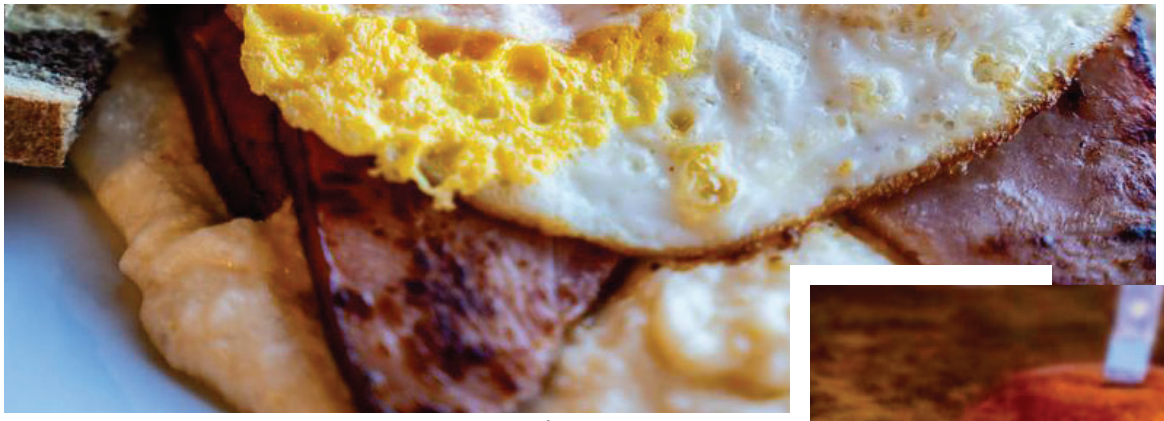




PHOTO: BOOKMAKERS BURGERS BOURBON BREWS

Mornings are a family affair at **Three Little Griddles**, a family-owned breakfast spot known for homemade frittatas, corned pork hash and the classics done right.
6040 S. Gun Club Road, Suite F2

At **Two22 Brew**, every pint does a little good. The brewery gives a portion of its sales to Colorado charities, turning a night out with friends into a gift for the community.
4550 S. Reservoir Road

And when you're craving comfort food, **Bookmakers Burgers Bourbon Brews** delivers. This locally owned grill pairs fresh Certified Angus burgers with an impressive bourbon list and Colorado beers on tap.
25791 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 50

Six businesses, six owners who chose Aurora South. And there are many more worth celebrating.

Simple Ways to Thank a Local Business

As you gather with family this month, consider adding one more tradition: thanking the local business owners who serve our community every day. A visit, a purchase and a kind word go further than you might think.

- **Choose them first.** Before heading to a big-box store or website, see if a local shop carries it.
- **Give local gifts.** Gift cards and handmade goods support a neighbor twice over.
- **Share your experience.** An online review helps others discover a business you love.
- **Engage online.** Follow, comment and share their posts.
- **Introduce a friend.** Bring someone new along on your next visit.

How Search Aurora South is giving back

We think these neighbors deserve more than an ad on a page. That's why we're rebuilding searchaurorasouth.com as a community resource, with a local business directory, a community calendar and stories that put local owners in the spotlight. Over the coming months, we'll be meeting with Aurora South business owners to share how they got started and why they love serving this community.

Who should we talk to next? The dentist who has cared for three generations of your family, or the food truck that shows up at every youth game? Send your suggestions to contribute@searchaurorasouth.com.

Your town. Your stories. Your magazine.

Reel vs Real



Devin Bertram

Devin lives with his wife and four kids in Parker. He has been fighting fires for twenty-seven years. He started in southern California and has been a career fire fighter in the Franktown Fire Protection District for almost sixteen years. He was recently promoted to Division Chief of Training and Line Services. He has also worked as an EMT and paramedic.

The following are Captain Bertram's personal opinions and in no way represent or imply an official position of the Franktown Fire Protection District.

Watching an emergency television show with a firefighter or paramedic means accepting that there will be commentary. Probably some eye rolling, laughing, and head scratching, along with the occasional "WTH?"

When people ask me whether shows like 9-1-1 resemble the job, my answer is usually, "The trucks and uniforms look familiar."

In my opinion, Hollywood has a recipe: start with "sex sells," add a heavy dash of drama, throw in unimaginable emergencies, and season generously with EMS protocol violations. Some procedures leave me thinking the rest of us would need an attorney before we finished the patient care report.

But the television responder always seems confident: "I read about this in a magazine once." Apparently, that's Hollywood's version of a certification course. Never practiced it? Never trained for it? Against protocols and standard operating procedures? No problem. Someone hands them a pocketknife, a ballpoint pen, and a paper clip. Add a blood donation from a nearby bystander, the music builds, and suddenly they're a trauma surgeon.

Meanwhile, I'm on the couch thinking, "That's not a treatment plan. That's Exhibit A in my criminal defense case."

The firefighting scenes have their own magic. Someone delivers a heartfelt speech inside a burning building which everyone hears perfectly, and they emerge with hair ready for a shampoo commercial. Apparently, television smoke respects both dialogue and hair conditioner.

Then there's the relationship drama. To me, these shows are soap operas with turnout gear. Sex, jealousy, rivalries, and personal conflicts fill the station, then follow the crew onto emergency calls. Somehow, the person needing rescue is an ex, a relative, or someone connected to a shocking secret.

At that point, I'm wondering whether the engine needs a couples counselor more than another firefighter.

We have personal lives and disagreements like everyone else. But my experience involves considerably more training, equipment checks, cleaning, and documentation than dramatic confessions beside a burning ambulance. Professionalism means working together and keeping the focus on the person who called for help.



That's why I enjoy Jason Patton's Fire Department Chronicles on Social Media. He green screens himself into emergency television scenes and reacts to the questionable decisions unfolding around him. To me, he says what many of us are thinking: "Hold on.....We have several questions."

For a show that gets closer, my classic pick is Emergency! Its medical practices reflect another era, but I appreciate its emphasis on teamwork, assessment, and patient care. Johnny and Roy usually had enough problems on the call without discovering the patient was part of a station love triangle.

For a modern example, I'd include The Pitt on HBO Max. In my opinion, season one comes close to capturing the pressure, competing priorities, and human side of emergency care. Season two feels like it adds more drama and Hollywood flair, as though someone said, "Excellent medical work. Could we prescribe a little more personal conflict?"

I enjoy these shows as entertainment. I just reserve the right to question the rescue plan and occasionally yell, "That's not how that works!"

My pitch for a realistic episode? Check the truck, train, run calls, reheat dinner twice, and finish the reports. Probably a tough sell in Hollywood, but it sounds like a familiar shift to me.

At the end of the day, if you're watching for entertainment, take it for what it is....entertainment. Enjoy the action, laugh at the ridiculous parts, and get caught up in the steamy story. Just don't mistake it for a typical shift. In my experience, those nonstop disasters, miracle procedures, and tangled relationships aren't everyday life in emergency services. Hollywood has a script. We, on the other hand, have a job to do.

ATHLETES TO WATCH

Douglas County has some of the best athletes in the country. Many enter their senior seasons with multiple D1 offers to some of the best universities. During this school year, we will highlight some of those athletes, their accomplishments, and their promising futures.



Class of 2027



Class of 2027



Class of 2027



SYDNEY MATTHEWS

CHAPARRAL WOLVERINES

FLAG FOOTBALL

Sydney is committed to play Division I soccer at Tarleton University; she is a decorated multi-sport standout at Chaparral. A two-time Underclassman Female Athlete of the Year, she earned First and Second Team All-State honors in flag football alongside two-time First Team All-Conference selections. On the soccer pitch, she served as team captain, collected three All-League honors, and lettered for four years as a dedicated leader.

LEAH TIDEY

LEGEND TITANS

VOLLEYBALL

Leah is a senior captain and starting setter for the Legend girls varsity volleyball team. Recognized for excellence on and off the court, she earned 2025–26 Second Team All-Conference and First Team Academic All-State honors, alongside being named Continental League Athlete of the Month after surpassing 1,000 career assists in September. Leah is committed to play collegiate volleyball at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.





JOLINE QUALTERI

PONDEROSA MUSTANGS

SOFTBALL

Joline has committed to play softball at Colorado State University where she plans to major in Interior Design with a minor in Architecture. Over the course of her time at Pondo, she was recognized as three-time Defensive Player of the Year, two-time First Team All-Conference Player, two-time First Team All-Academic, and was inducted into the Ponderosa Women's Athlete Hall of Fame.

THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

$ ..... Under $15
$$ ..... $15-$25
$$$ ..... Over $25
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New



JUNZ

More than just great sushi! Junz has been a local staple for years and remains one of the premier destinations for a casual night out or fine dining experience. If you are seeking a great restaurant to get acquainted with Japanese cuisine, look no further than Junz.

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.
10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 **$$**

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.
19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 **$$**

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.
2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 **$$** **(N)**

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.
9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 **$$**

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.
11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 **$$**

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.
19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 **$** **(EC)**

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.
18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 **$** **(N)**

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!
19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 **$** **(N)**

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place. **Corner of Parker Rd and Longs Way, Parker $$$**

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes.
8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree
303-729-2506 **$$**

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken.
10335 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-9742 **$$**

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 **$**

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays.
12543 N Hwy 83, Parker
303-841-6782 **$$**

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics
215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock
303-955-5788 **$$ - $$$** **(N)**

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup!
880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock
303-814-9273 **$$**

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL
Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends.
19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker
303-841-7179 **$$**

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN
Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options.
3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock
720-389-5986 **$$**

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S
Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format.
10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree
303-799-3661 **$$**

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN
Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service.
872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock
303-524-9788 **$$$**

PORTOFINO
Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian.
10920 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-841-9900 **$$**

SCILEPPI'S
A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients.
210 Third St., Castle Rock
303-688-9000 **$$**

VIA BACI
Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree**
303-790-0828 **$$**

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S
Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties.
7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown
303-663-7800 **$$**

CASA MARIACHI
Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates.
9771 S Parker Rd, Parker
720-842-5105 **$$**

LA LOMA
Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals.
6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock
303-632-9900 **$$** **(N)**

LAS POTRANCES
Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality.
19600 Solar Cir, Parker
303-840-0325 **$$** **(N)**

LOS DOS POTRILLOS
Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone.
6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock
720-769-5474 **$$**

LOS VOLCANES
Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions.
10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker
303-841-0160 **$$**

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE
Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers.
403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock
303-814-2233 **$$**

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE
Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs.
971 Park St., Castle Rock
303-660-2399 **$**

CRAVE
A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes.
3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock
303-814-2829 **$$**

DOUG'S DAY DINER
American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch.
18595 Mainstreet, Parker
720-476-7162 **$$**

MANNA
A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season.
2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock
720-455-3664 **$**

PARKER GARAGE
The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions.
19420 Mainstreet, Parker
720-389-8105 **$$** **(EC)**

PEGASUS
A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes.
313 Jerry St., Castle Rock
303-688-6746 **$$**

RORY'S
Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it!
11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker
720-708-2889 **$$**

SIERRA
High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes.
10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree
303-662-8800 **$$**

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK
Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch.
115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock
303-362-0904 **$$$** **(N)**

WEST MAIN TAPROOM
A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd.
18595 Mainstreet, Parker
720-826-3689 **$$**

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S
A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair.
12947 S Parker Rd., Parker
720-851-5300 **$**

ARTISAN
Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert.
12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker
303-840-0518 **$**

COLORADOUGH
A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker**
303-386-3333 **$$**

LIL' RICCI'S
New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker**
303-220-7422 **$$**

PARRY'S
NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters.
5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock
303-814-8686 **$$**





STEAKHOUSE

DUKE'S
Rustic restaurant featuring beef & seafood dishes, plus a sports tavern with an Irish vibe.
363 Village Square Lane, Castle Pines
303-814-2487 **$$$**

FOGO DE CHAO
Upscale Brasilian steakhouse with all-you-can-eat meat carved tableside. Guaraná is a must, and try the Creme de Papaya. **8419 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**
303-481-4001 **$$$** **(EC)**

PERRY'S
Chops, seafood, wine, & cocktails served in an upscale setting with a lounge & live jazz. **8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree**
303-792-2571 **$$$**

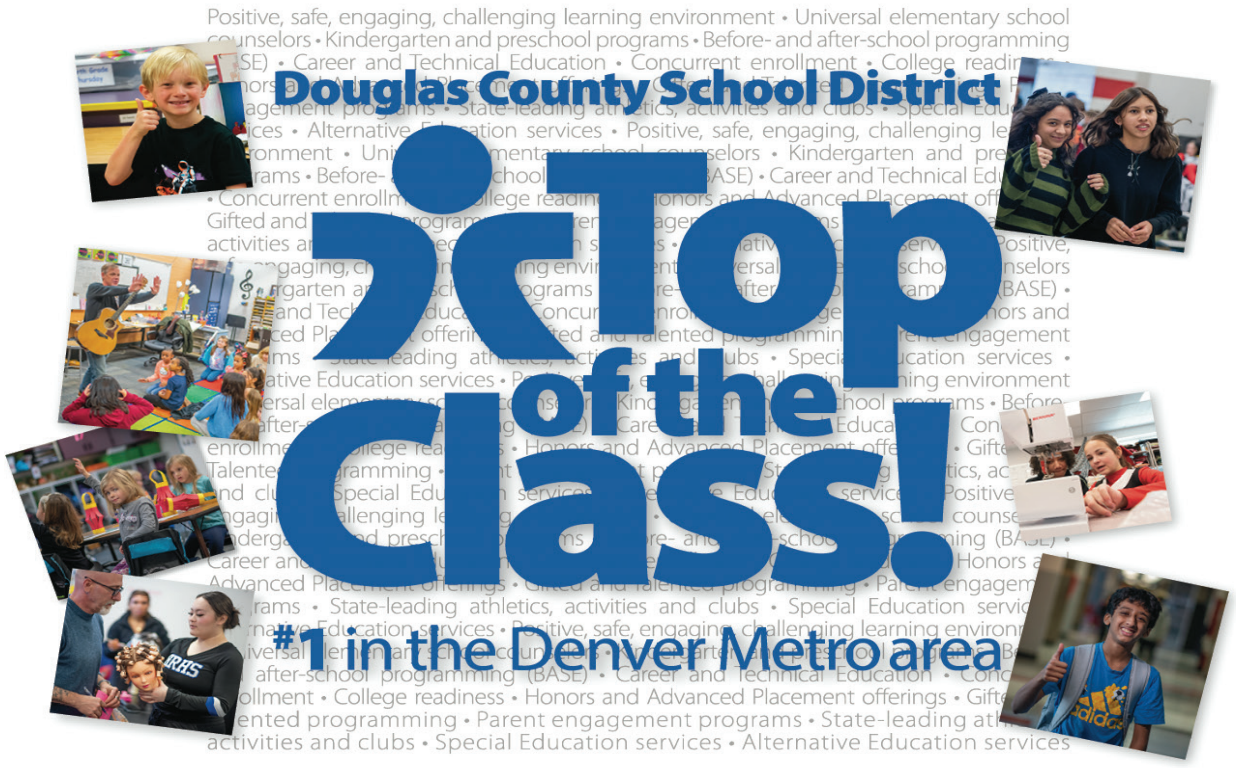
TEXAS ROADHOUSE
Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.
11205 S. Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-5848 **$$**

TRAPPER'S CHOP HOUSE
Upscale hideaway local favorite featuring their signature Volcanic Hot Rock sear-it-yourself experience.
19308 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
303-248-2132 **$$$**

UNIQUE

VISTAVINO MODERN
Quaint Tuscan grill made fresh from local fare. Every dish is a winner!
611 Wilcox St., Castle Rock
303-814-2487 **$$**





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As the #1 rated school district in the Denver Metro area, we're not just educating students — we're shaping futures.

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