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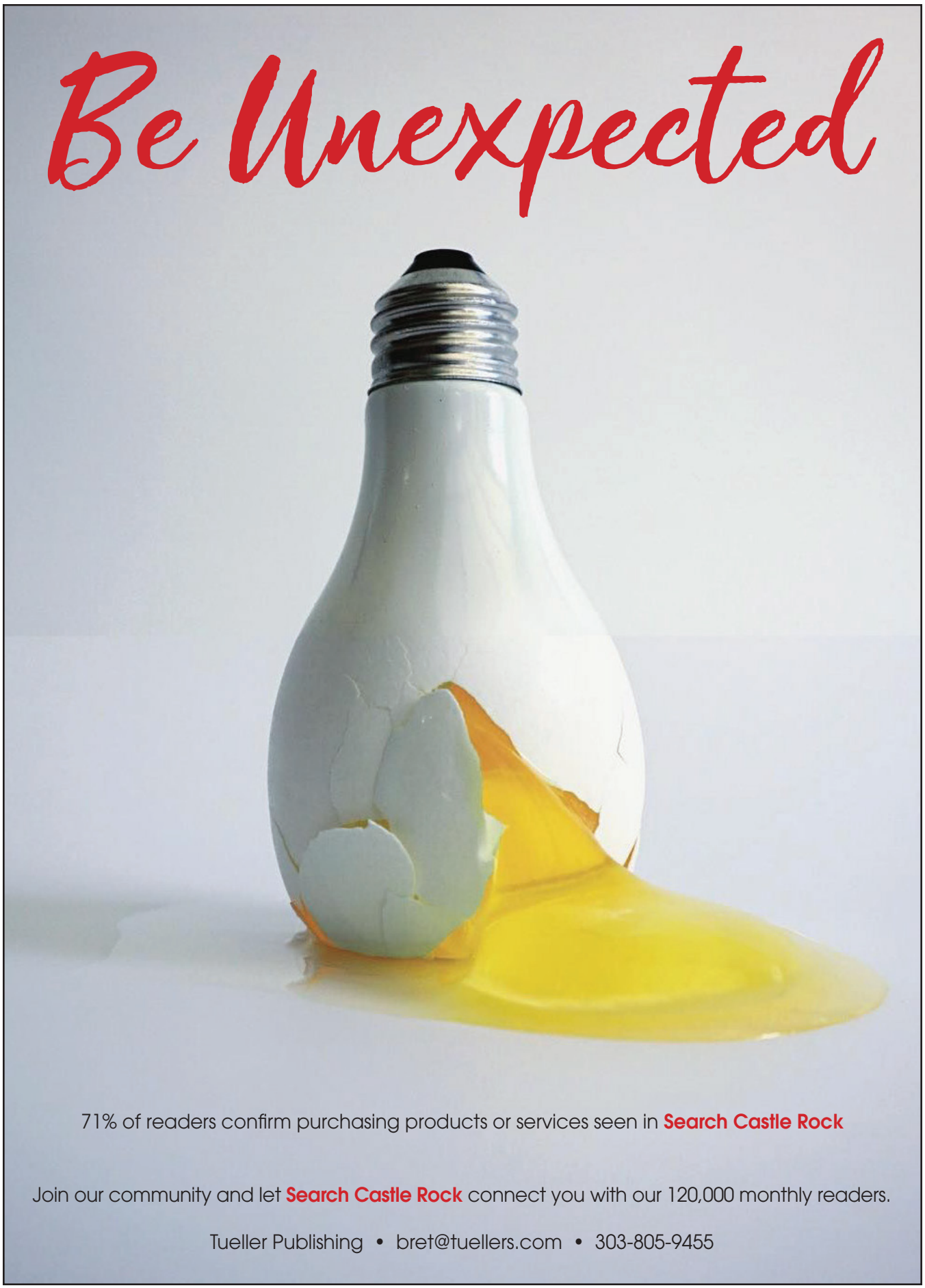
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THE BUSINESS BEAT

NOW OPEN

Fresh faces around the Rock.



Border Burger Sports Bar

Red Bird chicken and Colorado craft beer spread across three levels: a family floor with a kids' area and a private room plus a top-floor bar with a balcony and cigar lounge. Owner Rick Good, a restaurant veteran of more than 40 years, also runs Border Burger Bar in Manitou Springs.

810 New Memphis Ct · borderburgersportsbar.com



Dunkin

Castle Rock finally has its own Dunkin'. The Founders Marketplace store opened in late October with a drive-thru, nitro cold brew on tap and a mobile pickup shelf, and it's open 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

1185 Aloha St · dunkindonuts.com



Thrive Workplace

Remote workers and small teams have a new home base at The View. Thrive offers drop-in desks, private offices, meeting rooms and a podcast studio, with round-the-clock access and free parking.

610 Jerry St, Suite 200 · (720) 823-8016 · thriveworkplace.com

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Sugar Spoon Candies

Megan and her husband took over Sugar Spoon from longtime owner Gayle in September. The fudge is still made by hand, the chocolates are still hand-dipped, and the retro candy wall hasn't gone anywhere. The Magill's ice cream case has moved up front, the shop is now open seven days a week, and Castle Rock residents get a free scoop on their birthday.

313 Third St · (720) 379-3443

IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED IT YET



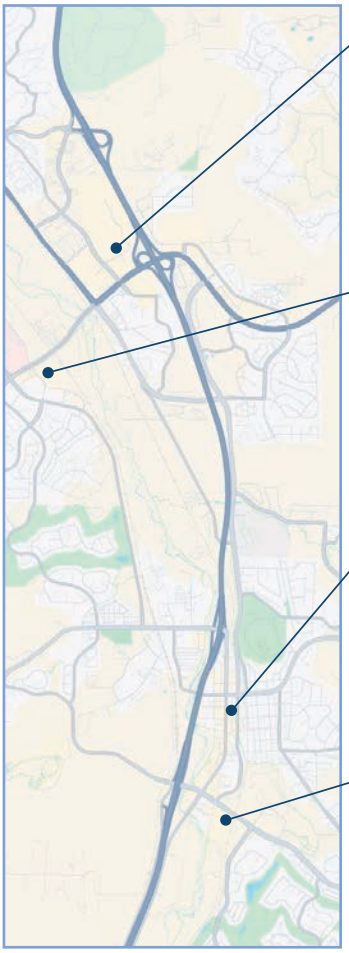
Izumi Sushi

Downtown's newest sushi bar opened in May on Third Street. Owner Manna Pan, who also runs the Izumi in Littleton, serves fish that has never been frozen, including bluefin tuna, so it's worth asking what came in fresh before you order.

115 Third St · 720-749-6172 · www.izumisushicastlerock.com

COMING SOON

New businesses opening soon in Castle Rock.



Peak Pizza - OPENING ANYDAY NOW

Allen and Katie Hoover, who run the Outlets' Auntie Anne's and Cinnabon, are opening a New York-style pizza counter with pies ready by the slice, strombolis, soft-serve and a few arcade games.

Outlets at Castle Rock, Suite 660

Chicken Salad Chick - OPENING TBA

Franchise owners, Maureen McFerson and her husband, Luke Hadden, are building the Southern lunch spot in The Meadows, near the movie theater, with a patio and a drive-thru.

The Meadows, off Meadows Pkwy ·

Pilates Addiction - OPENING LATE 2026

Every class at this downtown studio runs on a single gold-toned machine that works as reformer, jump board, barre and Wunda Chair in one. Founding members save 15% off regular rates.

333 Perry St · (303) 376-4969

Thai Wow - OPENING LATE 2026

Two friends who used to run Country Thai in Thornton are bringing their cooking south. Thai Wow will make curries and stir-fries to order, with heat from gentle to fiery, in the Safeway center on Plum Creek.

794 S Perry St · (303) 565-5674

FOND FAREWELL

Thanks for the memories.

Stumpy's Pizza

After more than 25 years downtown, Stumpy's served its last slices on Wilcox Street on Aug. 26, after the building was sold. The team hopes to reopen somewhere new.

Sawara Sushi

After 13 years on Metzler Drive, Sawara Sushi closed its doors in mid-August.

Spray

The spray-tan studio on Ambrosia Street wrapped up three years in business on Sept. 15, as its owner chose to spend more time with family.

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.



Thankful For Local

November has a way of slowing us down. Between the first snow on the Rock and the smell of turkey in the oven, we find ourselves thinking about what we're grateful for. High on our list this year: the men and women who run Castle Rock's small businesses.

BY **STEVE CLARK**

They're the ones who know your coffee order before you reach the counter, who tune your kid's bike before the big ride, and who stock their shelves with work from Colorado makers. Castle Rock keeps growing, but its heart still beats in these locally owned shops. Every dollar spent with them helps a neighbor make payroll, keeps a storefront lit, and gives our town a personality no strip mall can copy.

Here are six local businesses we're thankful for this season.

For more than 25 years, **Crowfoot Valley Coffee** has been pouring Castle Rock's morning cup. The family-run café sources beans from small farms and turns into a gathering spot for local brews in the afternoon. When times got hard, the family went without paychecks to keep the doors open, and loyal customers kept coming back.
734 Wilcox Street, Suite 102

Mark and KC Neel turned a small downtown storefront into **Castle Rock Bike & Ski**, a year-round hub for riders and skiers. Their roots run deep: Mark has coached the Castle Rock Youth Cycling Club for years and helps build local trails, while KC leads the Downtown Merchants Association.
25 S. Wilcox Street

At **Mod Mountain Boutique**, mother-daughter team Jayne Tien and Morgan Brubaker offer women's clothing, gifts and accessories in sizes from extra small to 3X, alongside pieces by local artists and designers.
215 Wilcox Street



PHOTO: MOD MOUNTAIN BOUTIQUE

PHOTO: THE EMPORIUM



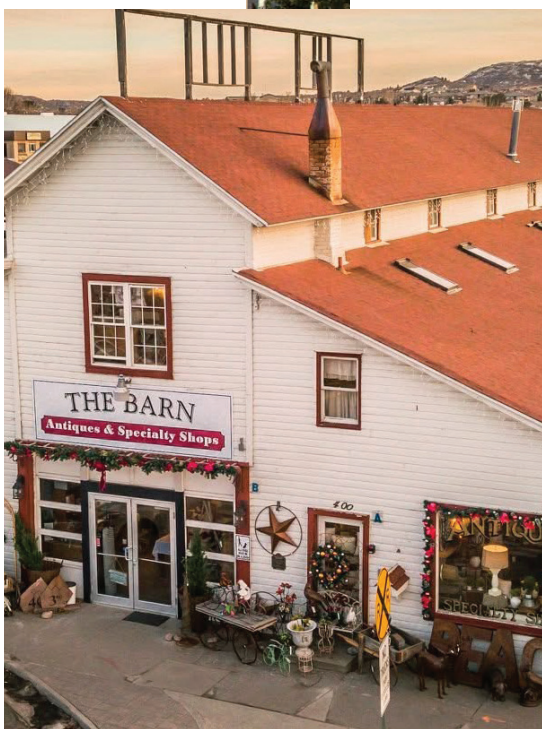


PHOTO: CINDERELLA RANCH

At **The Emporium**, you'll find more than 25 vendors under one roof, from antiques and local art to candles, jewelry and home decor. The Bomans have built a place where you can lose an afternoon and find the perfect gift.
200 Perry Street

Few places capture Castle Rock's history like **The Barn**. The building has stood here for well over a century, and today it's home to more than 20 shops selling vintage finds, quilting supplies and one-of-a-kind decor.
400 Third Street

And outside downtown, **Cookies & Crèma** proves great local spots are everywhere. Owner April Arellano serves locally roasted coffee, house-made cookies and scones, and hearty breakfasts that keep regulars coming back.
4284 Trail Boss Drive

Six businesses, six stories of hard work and hometown pride. Castle Rock has hundreds more just like them.

Five Ways to Show Your Gratitude

This Thanksgiving season, let's show these neighbors how much they mean to us. Stop in, shop local, and say thanks in person. It's a small gesture that means the world to the people who make Castle Rock home.

- **Shop in person.** Stop by, browse and say hello to the owner.
- **Buy gift cards.** They make easy holiday gifts and bring new customers through the door.
- **Leave a review.** A few kind words on Google go a long way for a small business.
- **Follow and share.** Like their social media posts and share them with friends.
- **Spread the word.** Tell a neighbor about the shop you love.

Our thank-you to Castle Rock

At Search Castle Rock, we believe these stories deserve more than a listing in the back of a magazine. That's why we've begun building searchcastlerock.com into a resource for our whole community, one that celebrates local businesses and introduces you to the people who run them. In the months ahead, we'll be visiting with Castle Rock business owners to tell their stories in their own words, and adding a local business directory so you can find them easily.

Know a business owner who deserves the spotlight? Maybe it's the mechanic who always tells you the truth, or the restaurant that feeds the high school team after every game. Tell us at contribute@searchcastlerock.com. We'd love to share their story.

Your town. Your stories. Your magazine.

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



PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast and lunch, Pegasus has something for everyone. They have served an ecletic menu in a comfortable setting for the past 31 years. While you're there, go see the giant riverboat roulette wheel behind the bar!

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 **$$$**

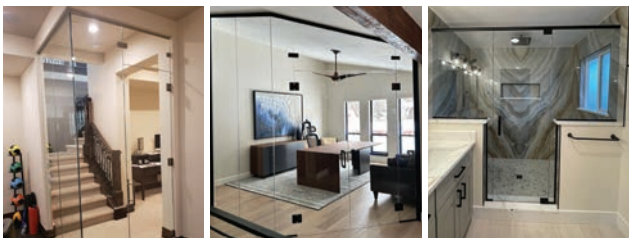
TEXAS ROADHOUSE
Texas-themed steakhouse with a great menu and wonderful atmosphere.
11205 S. Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-5848 **$$**

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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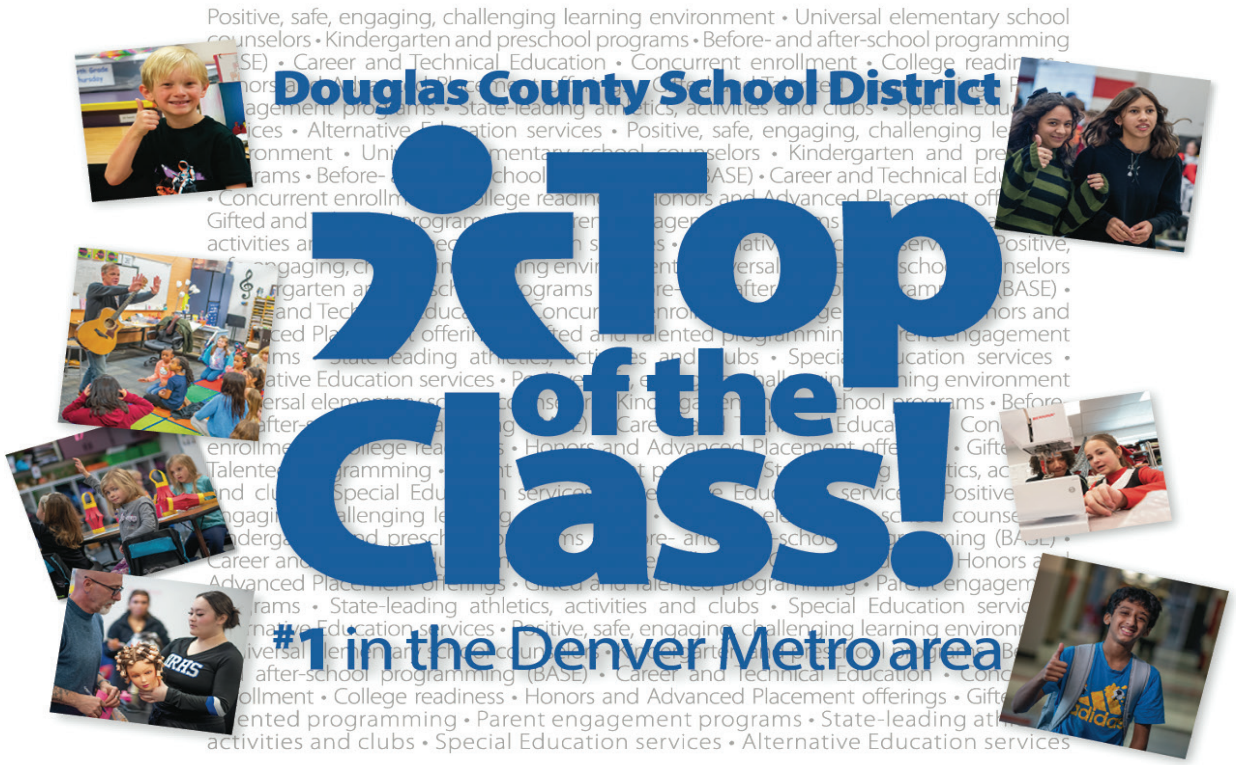
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