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Kindergarten Registration is Open!

Kindergarten Registration is Open in the Douglas County School District! If your child will be 5-years-old by October 1, 2026, now is the time to register them for Kindergarten.

Simply visit www.dcsdk12.org/kindergarten to get started. If your child currently attends a DCSD preschool, they will automatically be registered for Kindergarten.

DCSD Kindergarten Offers:

- Structured, Rigorous, Play-Based Curriculum
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- Balanced Beginnings
(staggered transition which builds stronger teacher/student relationships and eases the transition into school for students)

For more information: www.dcsdk12.org/kindergarten

Douglas County School District
Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow



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12 Athletes to Watch

A season-long feature highlighting some of the best high school athletes in the area.

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ON THE COVER

Evan and Julia from Parker



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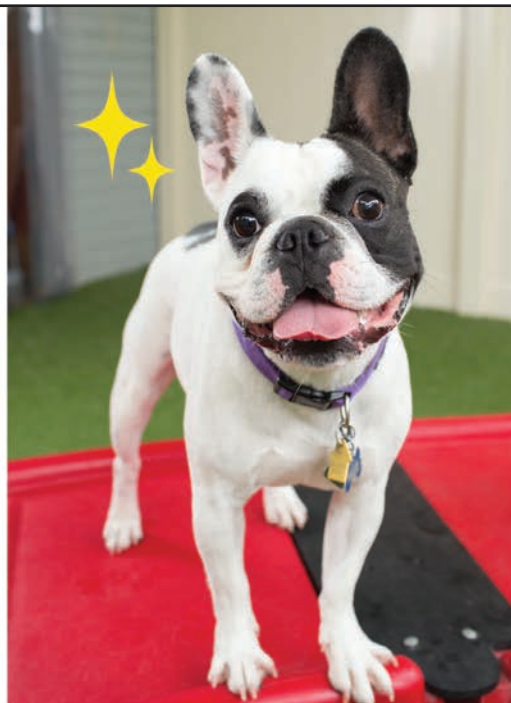
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COMING EVENTS

PHOTOS: TOWN OF PARKER



Bucket O' Salt Program

February 6-7 | 9045 Tammy Lane

Parker residents may claim up to a 5-gallon container's worth of free salt for use this winter from the town. Organized by the Engineering and Public Works Department, this program aims to promote clear and safe sidewalks and driveways around the community. Registration opens Feb. 2 on letstalkparker.org.



Love 'em or Leave 'em 5K/10K

February 14 | 11920 Motsenbocker | 10:00 am

Will you embrace the holiday full of heart or run from Cupid? Either way, you're going to LOVE this fun and festive workout with family and friends...oh, and those pancakes! Registered participants will receive a race shirt, custom bib, and a delicious post-race pancake breakfast. Purchase at ParkerRec.com/RunSeries.



Citizen's Police Academy

February 19 - June 11

Registration is now open for the Parker Police Department's Spring Citizen's Police Academy. Participants will get an inside look at the Parker Police Department through classroom instruction and hands-on learning. The academy is open to residents 18 and older and is limited to 40 participants. Register online at Parkerpolice.org.



State Of The Town

February 25 | 20000 Pikes Peak Avenue | 3:00 - 5:30 pm

Mayor Joshua Rivero will be the keynote speaker at this yearly Rotary Club of Parker event. Join elected officials, town workers, business owners, and public leaders for an afternoon of networking and social relations. For tickets and more information go to parkerrotary.org/page/2026-state-of-the-town.

Join our monthly email list to receive the latest magazine issue. Email: contribute@tuellers.com

AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS: TOWN OF PARKER



Food Trucks

Town Council approved an amendment to the Parker Land Development Ordinance in support of Parker's growing number of mobile businesses and food trucks. All mobile businesses will still be required to acquire the necessary permits and licenses to operate in Town. For more information about Mobile Business requirements visit ParkerCO.gov/MobileBusinesses.



Logo Contest

2026 is a milestone year for our nation (250 years), state (150 years) and town (45 years)! Participants designed a logo commemorating these anniversaries and entered them through the end of January. Submissions will be reviewed by Town staff, with finalists announced Feb. 9. A final round of public voting will take place from Feb. 9 until Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.



Shrek The Musical

"Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek...." And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Shrek The Musical started in January and runs through February 8th at the PACE Center.



Town Is Hiring

The Town of Parker is hiring for several full-time and part-time job openings posted at ParkerOnline.org/Jobs. Listings are updated regularly and applications are accepted through the website. Latest positions include - Parks Technician, Victim Advocate, Specialized Aquatics Instructor-Private Lessons, Recreation Instructor/Coach, Fitness Instructor/Trainer and more.

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A photograph of a broken red heart-shaped lollipop lying on a teal surface. The lollipop is shattered, with many small, sharp shards of red candy scattered around it. The lollipop stick is white and extends vertically from the bottom of the frame.

Lonely Hearts Club

Not all dating experiences have a
"happily-ever-after".

Stories as told to Search Parker Staff



Getting to know someone romantically can leave you feeling... drained.
If you've ever felt like love is a battlefield, have no fear -
we've all been there.

Sometimes bad dates happen to good people.
Enjoy a few romantic flops from our favorite people.

You're welcome, and no, we're not sorry for sharing.

"It had been 6 months since my last relationship and I was on the fence about meeting someone new. My friend convinced me to go on a blind date with his buddy, whom he claimed was perfect for me. Tall, fit, handsome, successful, and a funny guy was the description my friend gave me. At first glance, he fit the bill.

We met him at his house and then drove 40 minutes to a dive bar in Santa Cruz, California. That should have been the first red flag. After a few beers in the first 15 minutes, this guy could not stop talking about himself. I ended up driving us back to his place in his car. He awkwardly tried to hold my hand the whole ride back. Then he wanted me to come inside and meet his roommates. I think I dodged him trying to kiss me 3 times before I bowed out early with the excuse that I wasn't feeling well. Worst date ever!"

- **Denise** did finally find (and marry) her "fit, handsome, and successful" guy, and he's tall-ish.

"First date with a guy and he takes me to one of those bounce house/obstacle course type places. While we were jumping I looked down and noticed that the crotch seam on my pants was coming apart. I quickly excused myself and went to the front desk to ask for a stapler to fix the tear. They had a stapler, but no staples. The best they could do was some scotch tape. I tried the best I could to close the gap, but the tape basically did nothing at all and the hole grew throughout the night. My date never said if he ever noticed, but we never went out again."

- **Autumn** is now married and carries staples with her everywhere she goes.

"My own prom was a dream - beautiful dress, dancing, and my first kiss! However, weeks later, I agreed to attend another as a "pity date" for a friend's shy classmate. The red flags appeared immediately. My dad had to drive me an hour to get there, and then the boy's father drove us to the venue. During the entire ride, my date didn't utter a single word. Nothing.

I spent five hours in a room of strangers, trapped in a "quiet nightmare." I tried making small talk and even suggested dancing, but I was met with total silence while the friend who invited me enjoyed his own night. My first prom gave me a coming-of-age moment; the second taught me the valuable lesson of saying "no."

- **Melissa** is now happily married to the man of her dreams that can carry a conversation.

"My worst date was my first date. I asked a girl I liked to a school dance, and at first, she wanted to go with me. But then a new guy moved to town after she agreed to go with me to the dance. I heard he sent her flowers and that she liked him, so I politely asked her if she now wanted to go with him to the dance. She said she still wanted to go with me. So we went. During the dance people kept asking her where the other guy was. She even walked away from me while we were dancing at one point, leaving me alone. My friend and his date asked if I wanted to go home with them but I said no, I would push through to the end. We went to someone's house afterwards and it was super awkward with her and all of her friends who were clearly disappointed that I wasn't the other guy."

- That wasn't true love, but **Dan** is now happily married and his wife never leaves him on the dance floor.

7 Questions

WITH JENNIFER TINSLEY



Jennifer Tinsley

Jennifer is a licensed insurance agent with a local State Farm Insurance office here in Parker. We asked her to answer some of the questions our readers have about insurance to dispel some of the myths and help us love our insurance experience.

Why do I have to pay money and don't get anything tangible in return?

Since tangible means something concrete and definite then insurance is the tangible result of having guaranteed protection from financial devastation in the event of a lawsuit or loss. Insurance can be protecting your assets such as a car or home but it is also protecting your other assets like investments and future income from liability risk.

I heard claims always get denied first time you submit them. Is that true?

Most claims are processed and handled upon initial filing. You can help the claims process by following your company's protocol for loss, proper documentation and open communication with the claims representative. If a claim is being declined, it may be due to a lack of understanding what triggers a covered loss. For example, homeowners policies are not designed or priced to cover normal wear and tear that can occur. Coverage is triggered by sudden, accidental physical damage with a specific date of loss. I recommend having a local agent who can help give good information about your coverage before making the decision to file a claim.

Why is insurance so confusing; it's hard to understand my policy?

We understand insurance can be confusing so it is important to have a thorough review of your property, assets, and coverage with an insurance professional. Local agents have a vested interest in their community and developing a relationship so you can be properly protected. This can be an advantage over companies that treat insurance like a commodity and do not spend time evaluating your unique situation.

Why do claims take so long and don't cover what I need?

Having the proper documentation and making yourself available when your claims representative is reaching out can be very helpful in expediting your claim. If a claim is not covering what you need, then it is important to visit with an insurance professional to determine what you need before the claim occurs.

Why can't I talk to a real person or I have to wait forever on hold?

Insurance companies vary in how they are bringing on new clients and servicing their current clients. If you are looking to have easy access to a "real" person, State Farm and a few other companies still support the importance of local agents who service clients on a personal level and are invested in taking care of you.

Why do my rates climb higher and higher with no added benefits?

Rates are one part of consideration when finding insurance. Coverage is more important because a policy without proper coverage can result in a much larger financial loss if not properly protected. Insurance companies need to adjust rates to remain solvent in upholding their promise to pay in the event of a loss. Shopping and hopping may actually lead to paying higher rates over time. Companies, like State Farm, reward clients with better rates for staying in the long run. Visiting with your local agent can help you better understand rate changes. You may find that you are actually receiving better coverage.

How can you trust your agent; they work for the people denying my claim?

Agents are your friend! An agent is different than a broker. Agents are rewarded for helping you and retaining your business. So taking care of you is their job! If you are struggling with a claim, then I recommend reaching out to your agent for support. Even though they do not process the claim, they can help coordinate communication with claims and create better understanding.

Southeast

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For more information:
www.ParkerRotary.org



A Fundraiser Hosted by

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State of the Town Address

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Joshua Rivero
Mayor of Parker

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

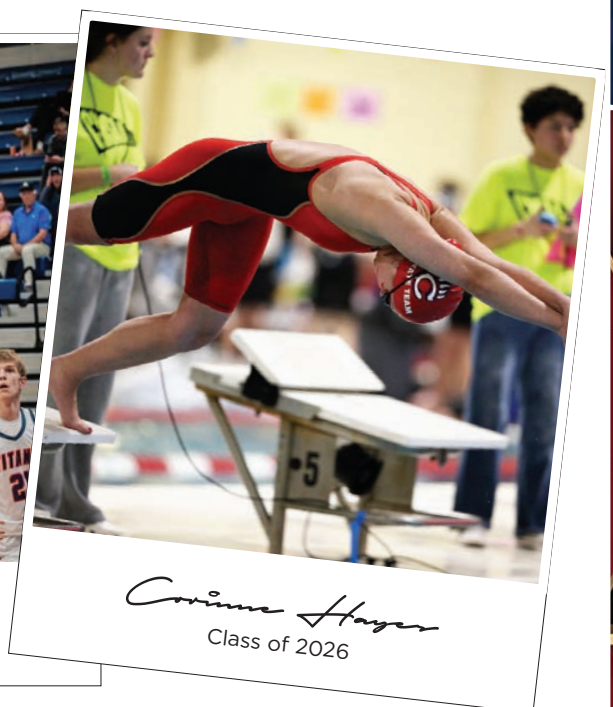
PACE Center • Parker, Colorado

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Networking, Social Hour, and Refreshments

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.





CORINNE HAYES

CHAPARRAL WOLVERINES
SWIMMING

Corinne started swimming competitively at the age of five. She is currently ranked as one of the top 20 swimmers in the state and has been named All-Conference her past three years, with last year being named First Team as well as Honorable Mention All-State. She is the school record holder in the 500 freestyle and has been captain her final two seasons. Corinne has accepted a D1 offer from St Bonaventure.

KHALIL HUDGINS

LEGEND TITANS
BASKETBALL

Khalil is a 6'4" junior captain at Legend High School. He is currently leading the team with 18 points per game at an efficient 59% field goal percentage, 50% from 3 point, and 81% from the free throw line. His season high was against Smoky Hill, where he put up 25 points on 12/13 shooting. Khalil maintains a 4.2 gpa and is currently undecided which university offer he will accept.



GENEVIEVE OSICK

PONDEROSA MUSTANGS
SWIMMING

Genevieve is a three-year varsity athlete and team captain. She was named Second Team All-State for the 2024-2025 season, being selected to represent Colorado on the Age Group Zones Team, and a sectionals qualifying time. Out of the water, Genevieve maintains a 4.0 GPA with her primary focus being her future career in science and mental health. She plans to pursue a dual interest in Marine Biology and Psychology at the collegiate level.



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 \$20
\$\$ \$20-\$30
\$\$\$ Over \$35
(EC) Editors Choice
(N) New

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 \$\$



FOGO DE CHÃO

Located in the Park Meadows Mall, off a beautiful outdoor courtyard setting. This Brazilian steakhouse is more than a restaurant; it's an experience. Try the full churrasco (shoo-hah-sko) to enjoy delicious meat cuts brought right to your table! And don't forget the guarana!

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.
10685 S Parker Rd, 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)

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303-814-9273 \$\$

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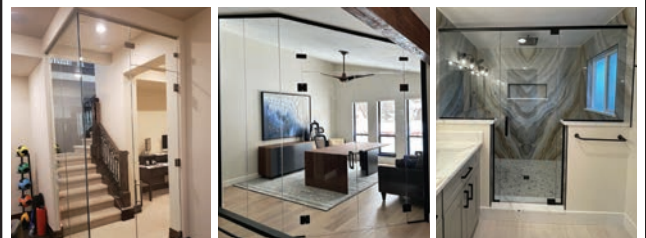
@ParkerRec #Vday5k10k

Race Shirt ~ Post-Race Pancakes ~ Kids' Dash

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