From "Randy Barber <randy.barber@bvsd.org>" <randy.barber@bvsd.org>
Subject **Summer learning article**
To Avery Artman <avery@impactoneducation.org>
Date June 18, 2025 11:19:14 AM MDT

Avery,

Here is the Daily Camera article on summer learning:

https://www.dailycamera.com/2025/06/18/bvsd-summer-summit-gives-students-boost-for-coming-school-year/

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Attachments:

- 2025-06-18 BVSD Summer Summit gives students boost for coming school year – Boulder Daily Camera.pdf
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NEWS › EDUCATION

BVSD Summer Summit gives students boost for coming school year



Rising kindergartner Shinobi Leigo, left, celebrates his work with teacher Becky Spear during a Kinder Bridge class Tuesday at Birch Elementary in Broomfield. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

By **AMY BOUNDS** | abounds@prairiemountainmedia.com | Boulder Daily Camera

PUBLISHED: June 18, 2025 at 7:33 AM MDT

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Violet Long builds a marshmallow house during a Kinder Bridge class at Birch Elementary in Broomfield on June 10. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

"If I'm stuck and really frustrated, what do I do?" asked Spear, who is a Louisville Elementary kindergarten teacher during the school year. "I stop, and I take a deep breath, and I say 'I need help.' "

The Boulder Valley School District is in its third year of offering a full-day, four-week Summer Summit program for elementary and middle school students. Students attend four days a week in June, for 15 days total, at four elementary school sites and one middle school site.

Altogether, about 2,100 students are enrolled in district summer programs, including about 100 students in special education in an extended school year program and about 375 high schoolers participating in a summer credit recovery program. In Summer Summit, there are about 1,600 district students plus 200 soon-to-be kindergartners.

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"We said we can't cut middle school; look at this attendance and engagement," DeDominces said. "But the summer school budget will have to be a continued conversation."

Summer Summit is free for families, other than a $50 registration fee, with transportation, breakfast and lunch all provided by the school district. The $50 registration fee is reimbursed for students whose attendance is 80% or higher.

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The district provides most of the curriculum for teachers so it's consistent across sites. The district hired about 90 current and retired Boulder Valley educators hired for Summer Summit, plus additional teachers for the special education program. Teachers who are looking to become administrators are hired as the leaders at each site.

"We're really intentional with our hiring," DeDominces said. "These are the students who need us the most, which means they're probably going to be some of the most challenging."

At the elementary level, classes cover social and emotional lessons, literacy, math and science. Students also rotate to different elective classes, including art, music and PE. Para-educators provide additional support, as does a counselor who rotates among the schools. Class sizes generally are limited to 20 students, though for rising kindergartners it's capped at 18.

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Elizabeth Drase, left, reads to her students during a Kinder Bridge class at Birch Elementary in Broomfield on June 10. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

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“It’s access to opportunities for students,” Impact on Education Program Director Katie DiMercurio said. “Early childhood education can really make a difference in a kid’s life.”

She said Impact continues to fund the program because it’s producing positive results. All of last summer’s Kinder Bridge participants enrolled in a Boulder Valley kindergarten class, 80% reached or exceeded kindergarten readiness benchmarks, and 80% improved in literacy and numeracy assessments.

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He said he’s in his third year teaching summer school because he wants to help struggling students get unstuck.

“In math, you’re just learning how to think and how to problem solve,” he said.

He added taking time to build relationships with students is important, even in a 15-day summer program.

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"We've been doing a lot of hands-on science, a lot of teamwork, a lot of vocabulary, a lot of practice writing in full sentences," she said. "We can flex to cover what they need. They don't always want to be in summer school, but we try to focus on their potential to grow. Hopefully, they'll be more confident in the fall."

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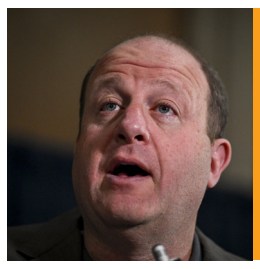
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PEARL STREET MALL

City highlights recent safety efforts

By James Burky
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Amid renewed security concerns after the June 1 Pearl Street Mall attack, the city of Boulder is emphasizing its security.

The Boulder Police Department, which the city says is at full staffing levels, issued a news release this week that highlighted safety efforts made in the past 18 months that the public might not be aware of. That includes having Sgt. Ryan Scheevel dedicated to coordinating efforts on the Pearl Street Mall, and establishing an e-bike patrol for Pearl Street officers. The Downtown Boulder Partnership, an organization that oversees operations in the portion of the city, lists seven officers dedicated to the Pearl Street Mall.

Those efforts are meant to "increase the feeling of safety and actual safety of visitors to downtown whether they're working, whether they're living here or whether they're just visiting," said Bettina Swigger, CEO of Downtown Boulder Partnership.

The release also highlighted a program from the police department called the Downtown Officer Block Program, in which an officer serves as a liaison for businesses on their blocks within the Business Improvement District, or BID. The bounds of the BID cover the Pearl Street Mall and Walnut Street, stretch north to

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People deal with heavy rain that fell on the Pearl Street Mall on June 17.

CLIFF GRASSMICK — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BVSD



PHOTOS BY CLIFF GRASSMICK — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Summer Summit gives students boost for upcoming school year

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abounds
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JAMES BEARD AWARDS

Boulder's Frasca takes home one of top honors

By Miguel Otarola
motarola@denverpost.com

Frasca Food and Wine took home the prize for Outstanding Restaurant in the country at the James Beard Foundation awards Monday evening in Chicago.

It was the only win amid six nominations for Colorado chefs and restaurants.

The Italian fine-dining destination, at 1738 Pearl St. in Boulder, received the top honor during the black-tie and red carpet affair held at the Civic Opera House.

It's the fourth Beard win for Frasca, which has been nominated more than a dozen times in various categories over the years.

Frasca co-founder Bobby Stuckey dropped his hands in exaltation upon climbing the stage to accept the award, flanked to his right by his business partners.

He thanked the restaurant's guests, employees and executive chef Ian Palazzola, who Stuckey said recently became a father.

"We thank you, because our industry is freaking beautiful," Stuckey said from the podium. "I love that the James Beard Foundation gives this beautiful industry this night."

He ended by bidding the audience good evening in Italian.

Frasca's other Beard wins were for outstanding service in 2019, outstanding wine program in 2013 and best chef in the then Southwest for Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson in 2008.

Colorado restaurants and chefs were nominated in five other categories but were not awarded. They included Alma Fonda Fina (2556 15th St., Denver) for best new restaurant; Carolyn Nugent and Alen Ramos of Poulette Bakeshop (19585 Hess Rd., Parker) for outstanding pastry chef or baker; Penelope Wong of Yuan Wonton (2878 Fairfax St., Denver) for best chef in the Mountain region; and McLain Hedges and Mary Allison Wright of Yacht Club (3701 Williams St., Denver) for outstanding professionals in cocktail service, a new category.

Stuckey, a master sommelier who co-founded the James Beard award-winning and Michelin-starred Frasca Hospitality Group, won the Julia Child Award presented by the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts earlier this year.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Which public lands could be eligible for sale under GOP bill?

More than 14 million acres in state meet criteria, including popular mountain biking, hiking areas

By Elise Schmelzer
eschmelzer@denverpost.com

Federal public lands in Colorado eligible for sale under Republicans' current budget bill include a popular mountain biking area outside of Grand Junction, a beloved hiking area in Durango's backyard and thousands of acres of forest abutting the Front Range's Brainard Lake Recreation Area and Indian Peak Wilderness.

More than 14 million acres of federal public land in Colorado could be eligible for sale if Congress passes the current version of the budget bill mandating the sale of a fraction of the nation's public lands, an analysis by The Wilderness Society found.

The eligible parcels cover chunks of mountain, foothills and plains along the Front Range and the Western Slope.

The budget draft requires the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to sell between 0.5% and 0.75% of the 438 million acres the agencies manage across the West — up to 3.3 million acres, or 5,100 square miles.

It exempts certain lands from

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Summer

FROM PAGE 1

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Safety

FROM PAGE 1

portions of Spruce Street and south to and beyond Canyon Boulevard.

Some of the other changes the release highlighted are bathroom attendants to monitor public restrooms on Pearl Street and an on-call team that is designated to address homeless camps in downtown Boulder.

City officials found it important to emphasize these already-made changes with international interest on Boulder in light of the June 1 antisemitic attack that injured 15 people.

"We have visitors from all over the world that come down here, and unfortunately the spotlight (is on us) right now," said Mike Heath, commander with the Boulder Police Department. "We take safety extremely seriously."

Mike Horowitz has as good a reason as anyone to feel unsafe on Pearl Street. He's the face behind the Freddie's Hot Dogs cart on the Pearl Street Mall at Broadway. That's where he spends his days, sitting or standing beneath a colorful umbrella slinging dogs and South Jersey wit.

"I think the problem here is, I don't think people expect it," Horowitz said. "I'm from New Jersey, and I do the same thing here, I walk around. I'm always looking around because you want to know what's going on."

The Pearl Street Mall is more or less as safe as it's always been, Horowitz said. He sees more danger in the more violent members of the homeless community. He said he was assaulted by a homeless man last August.

"I think in general, it's a very safe place," Horowitz said of Pearl Street. "You never know what's going to happen. (The Pearl Street Mall attack) could have happened anywhere."

Lands

FROM PAGE 1

sale, including national monuments, wilderness areas, national conservation areas, national parks and national recreation areas. Public lands with existing mining or drilling rights would also be exempted.

Republican leadership pitched the land sales as a way to generate revenue and make more land available for housing, though the bill contains no provisions requiring proposed housing to be affordable. The bill states the agencies should prioritize the sale of lands that are nominated by states or local governments, are adjacent to existing development and infrastructure, and are suitable for residential housing.

Nearly all of the proceeds from the sales — estimated at between $5 billion and $10 billion over the next decade — would go to the U.S. Treasury.

The provision sparked broad and fierce criticism from Colorado conservation and recreation communities as well as the state's Democratic delegation in Congress. Coloradans' businesses, ways of life and identity rely on public lands, they said.

Public lands are Americans' birthright and a unique treasure that can be accessed by all, Tony Prendergast, a Colorado rancher and member of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said in a call with reporters Friday.

"There is nothing like this issue that will fire up people like me to get involved politically," he said. "The depth of the anger I feel and the disappointment in those elected officials who are putting this proposal forward and those who will support it is just intense for me."

Lawmakers over the weekend expanded the eligibility of lands for sale by removing a definition that specified what types of leases exempted land from sale, said Michael Carroll, the BLM campaign director at The Wilderness Society. The text no longer explicitly exempts lands with grazing leases, which cover millions of acres across the West.

The revision to the bill also strengthened requirements that the sold land be used for housing or "infrastructure to support local housing needs." Previously, it allowed the land to be used for broader "community needs."

It also removed language that required agencies to prioritize selling tracts that were difficult to manage because of their remoteness.

After the exemptions are accounted for, approximately 14 million acres of public land are eligible for sale in Colorado, according to The Wilderness Society's analysis.

On the Western Slope, eligible lands include chunks of BLM land north of Blue Mesa Reservoir and along the Gunnison River below the reservoir's output. Swaths of land in the Book Cliffs immediately north of Palisade could be for sale, as well as the popular Lunch Loops mountain bike trail system outside Grand Junction. Durango's beloved Animas Mountain recreation space is eligible, as is land along the scenic U.S. 550 between Durango and Silverton — known as the Million Dollar Highway.

In the Arkansas River Valley, thousands of acres would be eligible across the Sawatch Range west of Twin Lakes, Buena Vista and Salida.

Another large tract covers a huge chunk of mountains north of Aspen, and another nearly all the mountains immediately east of Steamboat Springs, which serve as popular camping, hiking and biking areas.

Closer to the Front Range, nearly all of the Forest Service land in the hills west of the Interstate 25 corridor between Castle Rock and Colorado Springs is eligible. Forest Service land abutting the eastern borders of the popular Brainard Lake Recreation Area and Indian Peaks Wilderness would be eligible as well.

Because the bill prioritizes land near communities, it could threaten the lands most accessible and most used by Coloradans, said Carroll, who lives in Durango and frequently visits Animas Mountain.

"The big loser is people's recreation and outdoor space that we all go to on a regular basis," he said. "The real impact is on local communities."

The Senate proposal follows a failed amendment to the House version of the budget that would have sold more than 500,000 acres of public land in Utah and Nevada.

The amendment was later stripped from the House draft — in part due to opposition from Western Republicans.

Rep. Jeff Hurd, who represents the sprawling 3rd Congressional District, was the only member of Colorado's Republican House delegation to oppose the measure or speak publicly about public lands sales. In a previous interview with The Denver Post, he said he opposed the large-scale sale of public lands without local input but eventually voted in favor of the larger package because his concerns about the land sale did not outweigh the parts of the bill he liked.

Other Senate committees are still working this week on their pieces of the budget bill as Republicans work to pass a final version in the coming weeks.

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