

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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SUNDAY

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Don't quote me but...

"Figure skating starts tomorrow! Register your skater at tssc.org and join the fun!"

—Alysha Patterson,
director of the Telluride
Figure Skating Club

Calendar

Sunday

- Gondola Closing: The gondola closes for the off-season at 11:59 p.m. Sunday. It will re-open for the winter season on Nov. 17
- Telluride Horror Show: Palm Theatre, Nugget Theatre and Sheridan Opera House
- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m.

Monday

- Learn to Curl Clinic: 8-10:45 a.m., telluridecurling.com
- Free Qi Gong Class: Lawson Hill, 8:15 a.m.
- Open Skate: Telluride Town Park Rink, 1:45 p.m.
- Maker Monday: Telluride High School STEM Lab, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church (downstairs), 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 7 a.m.
- Open Skate: Telluride Town Park Rink, 10-11:45 a.m.
- Art Tuesday Session 1: Ah Haa School, 2-5 p.m.
- Cyber Clubhouse: Wilkinson Public Library, 2:15-3:15 p.m.

Weather

Muse: "Monsters are real, and ghosts are real too. They live inside us, and sometimes, they win."
—Stephen King

Forecast: Sunday is predicted to be sunny with a high of 58. Monday also will be sunny with a high of 62 and Tuesday will be mostly sunny with a high of 60.

IN ORBIT:

Sunday Focus:
Business

Dental office's
expansion

Wednesday:
Arts, Lifestyles
& Nonprofits

TRANSPORTATION

SMART hires executive director

By JESSICA KUTZ
Staff Reporter

After an almost yearlong search, the San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) announced the hiring of David Averill as executive director at its regular meeting on Thursday.

Averill, of Fort Collins, was the capital planning and grants compliance manager for the City of Fort Collins and Transfort (the public transportation operator

for the Fort Collins metro area), according to his official LinkedIn profile.

He previously worked for the Colorado Department of Transportation's transit and rail division as a transit infrastructure specialist (2011-12), and transit planning and infrastructure

unit manager (2012-16). He has served as the North Front Range Metropolitan Organization's senior multi-modal transportation planner (2007-11) and Fort Collins' transportation planner (2002-07).

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know the region better

and seeing what we can achieve," Averill said in a news release.

The SMART Board of Directors has spent several months trying to fill the role, and board members acknowledged the difficulty of finding the right candidate.

"It is not just Telluride but nationwide — there aren't a lot of transportation professionals looking to change jobs," board member Todd Brown said about the matter.

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Board members acknowledge difficulty in search



Making ice

Todd Broughton, a Parks and Recreation employee, sprays down the ice at the Hanley Pavilion in Town Park on Friday. Broughton said the ice will need to be at least an inch thick before the facility opens on Monday. (Photo by Jessica Kutz/Telluride Daily Planet)

POLICY

Trying to make a difference

Local DACA recipient meets, speaks with D.C. officials

By JESSICA KUTZ
Staff Reporter

Last week, over 100 DACA recipients from 25 states met with their congressional representatives in Washington D.C., told their individual stories, and urged the passage of a bipartisan Dream Act.

DACA stands for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, and the Dream Act refers to a piece of legislation that would grant DACA recipients permanent residence status in the U.S. DACA recipient Claudia Garcia, who lives in Telluride, was invited to represent Colorado,

along with four other Dreamers from Denver.

Garcia and the other Colorado recipients spoke with U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and a representative from U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner's office. Bennet is a Democrat; Gardner and Coffman are Republicans.

"We shared our story, and how DACA has helped us, and what we are looking at if our work permit expires," Garcia said. "(We asked) if they could pass the Dream Act and look at it as a solution.

"We got a lot of really good feedback from a lot of (lawmakers). It was really great sharing

our story about why it is important for Dreamers," she added.

On Sept. 5, President Trump announced that he was ending DACA, and would leave the decision up to Congress to replace it. He gave Congress six months to act. If nothing is passed, DACA recipients could face deportation as early as March 5, 2018.

Garcia was sent to D.C. by the FWD.us (pronounced Forward) organization. The group, which was founded in the spring of 2013, is focused on immigration reform and criminal justice reform, according to Peter

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ELECTIONS

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Brown touts his governing experience, community involvement

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of Q&A profiles on Telluride Town Council candidates. Ten candidates are vying for four seats. The election is Nov. 7.

SPECIAL TO THE PLANET

Name: Todd Brown
Age: 70
Current occupation: Business coach/ski instructor
Why are you running for re-election?

Through my time in town and on Town Council, I've developed a broad and deep base of knowledge about how Telluride works. It takes time to understand the complexities, and I'm running again to continue the thoughtful, knowledgeable, and practical leadership and realistic problem-solving I've contributed to council.

What skills and insight do you bring to the position?

I'm a long-term resident with a strong managerial and financial background brought from international business, and I'm deeply involved in local organizations representing a broad cross-section of the community.

What have you learned over the past term that you will utilize on a second term of Town Council?

I have learned the many needs of our community. A council member must represent the interests of the entire community, not a

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First SMART director

SMART, from page 1

SMART chairperson Laila Benitez later said that part of the difficulty was finding someone who fit into the character of the region.

"There were quite a few people who had that transportation background that we looked for but that just weren't the right fit for our community," she said. "We took that into consideration."

Brown said he feels strongly that Averill is a good choice for the job.

"In addition to being a supreme transportation planner with a lot of Colorado experience, he is also a big bicycle guy," he said. "So using trails as part of the whole transportation system, which was envisioned when we put SMART together, will be something he is uniquely attuned to."

Averill will begin working with SMART on Nov. 27.

While the announcement of Averill's hiring dominated discussion, and even ended in a round of applause, there were several other SMART updates.

For one, the transportation authority has signed a lease agreement with the Town of Telluride for an office space located on the first floor of the Spruce House at the corner of Spruce Street and Pacific Avenue.

The commercial space has been empty since the completion of the housing project last fall.

There also was some discussion regarding the authority's finances. Due to a state legislative marijuana tax error — which has prevented special districts in the state from collecting tax on recreational pot sales — SMART will lose out



SMART interim executive director Amy Levek takes notes on the regional transportation authority's 2018 budget during a meeting on Thursday afternoon. (Photo by Jessica Kutz/Telluride Daily Planet)

on about \$10,000 in revenue, according to Amy Levek, SMART's interim executive director.

Special districts across the state had counted on that funding source in the past. A special legislative session that was called earlier this month to address the error ended in two days with no resolution of the matter.

On the flip side, Nina Kothe, a county administrative assistant, announced at the SMART meeting that in 2018, the transit authority can expect to receive \$180,000 from the county's Real Estate Transfer Assessment fee, approximately \$80,000 more than was anticipated by the transportation authority.

The authority also is projecting a 4 percent increase in revenue from sales taxes in 2018,

based on sales tax revenues from 2017, Brown said.

Levek also updated the board on community outreach efforts. As of Thursday's meeting, transportation surveys, which gauge residents use and need for regional transportation services, had been completed by 47 Rico residents, 72 Lawson Hill residents and 103 residents regionally.

The regional survey can be completed online at SMART's website, colorado.gov/smartelluride.

As for when to expect new routes and services, there were talks of starting a pilot program for Lawson Hill as early as mid-November that would extend evening and weekend route services.

There was also discussion of bringing service to Rico around the same time.

DACA meeting

DACA, from page 1

Boogaard, FWD.us communication director.

"We were started by leaders in the tech and business community," Boogaard said. "Those folks were, one, interested in engaging in these issues and, two, ensuring that we are in a position in the United States to stay competitive in the market place and the global economy."

Boogaard explained that the organization sent Dreamers to D.C. so that lawmakers could see the real impact of DACA in communities and cities throughout the United States.

"Putting (DACA recipients) at the center of these discussions is so important, so that policymakers and elected officials can understand that there is a direct impact to their decisions," he said. "It also gives people around the country a better sense of who these people are. They are teachers and engineers; they are kids that are on the same baseball teams and same church groups as many American families."

Garcia described her experience talking to congressmen in D.C. as "surreal."

"I didn't think I would ever go to D.C. and actually talk to a representative or senator," she said. "I just think the power of your voice is really important."



From left, Marco Dorado, Marissa Molina, U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman, Maria Guerro, Claudia Garcia and Reydesel Salvidrez Rodriguez pause for a photograph on Oct. 4. The group met in Washington, D.C., to discuss the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. (Courtesy photo)

In addition to meeting with policymakers, Garcia was able to converse with DACA recipients from all over the country.

"For me, that was the most rewarding," she said.

"It was really nice to meet all these young adults from across the United States, and be like, 'You are in the same boat as me.' It was really nice because we felt like family. ... We all had a different story but with the same barriers, the same roadblocks."

For Garcia, and the approximately 800,000 DACA recipients living in this country, the next few months are crucial for getting leg-

islation passed, which made the focus of her D.C. trip even more important.

"Our hope was to let (congressmen) know it was an urgent matter and that it needs to happen, and hopefully by the end of the year they will do something about it. Because if not, a lot of DACA recipients will be out of status and they won't be protected anymore."

She views her trip to D.C. as the first step when it comes to putting pressure on elected officials.

"We have a ways to go," Garcia said. "This is just the beginning. It is definitely not over."

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