

SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS

AND INDEPENDENT

Reverend talks sanctuary, immigration during visit

By **STEWART McCLINTIC**
Daily Press Staff

With all that's going on in the Middle East, at the U.S. southern border and throughout the world, refugees are a hot topic — should they be allowed in, should they

be shunned or is there a happy medium? To address this topic, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City hosted the Rev. Chris Jimmerson of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin on Sunday morning.

In addition to the Unitarian Fellowship's normal services on Sunday, Jimmerson spoke of the other missions the church does — and supports others in doing — to provide sanctuary for refugees.

He said many people risk their lives to travel to America because they have nothing else, and their lives depend on it. However, some of those people do not get very far, and may never be granted refugee status. To assist those in such life-or-death situations, he said, many churches, including his, began offering sanctuary to refugees, even though they may not be in the

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Basketball teams move on in tourney

Grant County will be represented by three teams in the U.S. Bank State Basketball Championships, being played this week in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo.

The Cliff Cowboys and Cowgirls will be playing in the Class A tournament, while the Silver High School Fighting Colts will be in the Class AAAA tournament. Southwest New Mexico will also have the Lordsburg Mavericks, playing in Class AAA, looking for a state championship.

On Wednesday, the Cliff Cowgirls, the No. 3 seed, will face sixth-seeded Evangel Christian Academy, at 8 a.m., at Bernalillo High School in the quarterfinal round. Also in the quarterfinals, the top-seeded Cliff Cowboys will play eighth-seeded Santa Fe Waldorf, at 9:45 a.m., at Bernalillo High School.

Wednesday, at the Santa Ana Star Center in Rio Rancho, the fifth-seeded Colts will battle the fourth-seeded Pojoaque Valley Elks, also at 9:45 a.m.

The top-seeded Lordsburg Mavericks will square off on Wednesday against district rival and eighth-seeded Mesilla Valley Christian, at 5 p.m., at Cleveland High School, also in Rio Rancho.

For more on the boys' first-round games from the state tournament, see Pages 4 and 5.



(Press Staff Photo by Stewart McClintic)

Work Progresses

Stephanie Celin works on the Szygy and town of Silver City community park on Bullard Street on Sunday afternoon. Celin said the project must be completed by July to fulfill a requirement for a grant that is funding the project. She said she and others have been working on the park since July 2015 and hope it will be finished sooner than the deadline month. The project is funded by the New Mexico Tourism Department's New Mexico Clean and Beautiful program, which granted the project \$26,000.

Schools cooperate to buy new track system

By **SAMMANATHA LARISCH**
Daily Press Intern

For track athletes competing in Districts 4A through 6A this year, systems of timing are changing. The New Mexico Activities Association is now requiring schools to have an automatic timing system. These automatic systems detect the start signal and use a camera set up at the finish line to capture 1,000 frames per second with a time stamp, allowing coaches to see the exact time each athlete crosses the line.

Silver High School bought one automatic timing system last year, and the schools competing in their district purchased another to share this year.

"Within our district we have Silver, Socorro and Hatch and Hot Springs, and all the schools would chip in and we would have one for the 'district.' So when Hot Springs has their meet or whatever, we can transport it around, instead of each [school] district purchasing one, which is not feasible," said Cobre High School

Principal Frank Quarrell.

The cost of the automatic timing system ranges from about \$6,000 to \$15,000, or even more.

"What happened is Cobre is not going to have to dish out anything. We were able to gather enough money ahead of time, [over] two years, to buy our own system. It is the property of District 3-4A, but will be housed here," said Cobre Athletic Director Pat Abalos.

Cobre purchased a system costing around \$15,000, and the district is paying a small amount of

that to use it.

"Those systems are \$6,000 and above and we are paying three different people \$500 all together. Financially, if we have to do this, it's the cheapest way we can do it," said Hot Springs High School Athletic Director Todd Lindsay.

It is not only hard for schools to fit into their budget, it also makes it tough for athletes to qualify for the state meet.

"If a 4A school goes to a 3A

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March 7, 2016

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