



THE SHINING STARS FESTIVAL was held for the fourth consecutive year Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5. It was the second year for the festival at Lake Selmac. The food drive sponsored by the Shining Stars as part of the admission fee netted nearly 1,500 pounds of nonperishable items which will be distributed to at least five I.V. locations. The festival featured plenty of live entertainment including clowns, jugglers, storytellers, live music and dancing. Additionally, New Tribe provided free tree-climbing lessons for children. At an area called Kids Universe, various craft projects were available.

Pregnancy Center aide enjoys providing support

Debi Phillips is fairly new to the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley, but not to volunteering at a Pregnancy Center. She worked with women and families at a center in Utah for three years before moving to Oregon and joining the I.V. team six months ago. Phillips said that that she was drawn to help at a center after seeing some friends suffer after their abortions. The hopelessness that brought them to such a drastic decision, and then the helplessness to go back and undo that decision, haunted her friends for years. Phillips hopes that “women will be saved from the lie that the women’s rights advocates have told them ... abortion does not free you -- it can break your heart for the rest of your life.” One of Phillips’ greatest concerns is that, “Our young people are unaware

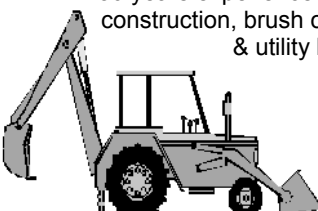
of the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). We need to make them aware that casual sex can harm or even kill them.” There are many STDs with few or no symptoms, so a person can have one, spread it, and not know it. The Pregnancy Center has a list of the major types of STDs, modes of transmission, symptoms, risks and treatment information -- unfortunately not all STDs are curable. Phillips particularly enjoys meeting the women

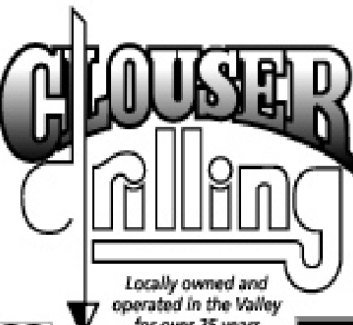
who come to the center for pregnancy tests, options counseling, relationship issues, parenting support, or assistance after an abortion. “The center constantly needs workers,” she said. “One person truly can make a difference in this ministry,” she added. She enjoys seeing the babies grow, and watching the young mothers and fathers develop skills and confidence in their abilities to parent a new generation. To sum it up, Phillips said that, “Volunteering at

the center has enriched my life far more than I can say. I love every woman who walks in the door. “Here they receive acceptance and love, not judgment. God loves these women, and so do we.”

Scholarships gained by IVHS seniors

Thirty-six Illinois Valley High School seniors earned scholarships totaling more than \$165,000 during the IVHS annual awards ceremony. ASPIRE Coordinator Alan Crews added that approximately another \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of scholarships are to be awarded by late-July. In addition, one senior was granted a Ford Family Foundation scholarship, which could be worth as much as an additional \$60,000 for him to complete his education at the University of Oregon at Eugene. Of the seniors who have already been accepted to their colleges of choice, they have thus far been awarded more than \$130,000 in additional scholarships directly from their colleges. This means, said Crews, that as much as \$360,000 in scholarships have been earned so far by the IVHS Class of 2005. There still are additional financial aid offers to come from colleges during the summer. Such offers potentially could add several thousands of dollars to that total, said Crews.

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