

# OUR TOWNS

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## TLN program on Aurora clinic goes out to nation

By Erika Wurst  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — The abortion debate here struck national chords last week as the Aurora-based Total Living Network's weekly Christian talk show, *TLN Now!*, gave viewers across the country a firsthand look at Aurora's Planned Parenthood debate.

Program host Jerry Rose, CEO and president of the Total Living Network, sat down with several Aurora-based ministers, advocates and abortion protesters during the hourlong program that aired

on the network's Comcast Cable channels.

The program was broadcast nationally as part of the Sky Angel channel on Dish Network and reached viewers from San Francisco to West Virginia.

"As a Christian television channel we unapologetically take a strong pro-life stand on the abortion issue," Rose said. "It is in the best interest of our community to hear the views of the pro-life movement, and we are pleased we are able to present them."

Rose and his wife, Shirley, took calls from viewers across the country during

the special edition of *TLN Now!*.

"The reason this (debate) is so intense is that it's an issue of life," Rose said. "We believe life is sacred."

Eric Scheidler, of Aurora, communications director of the Pro-Life Action League, the Rev. Martin Heinz of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Aurora and the Rev. Dan Haas of Aurora Community Church joined Rose in the studio.

"We are pro-family, pro-God, pro-life and proactive," Heinz said, commending the persistence of the protesters who recently completed a vigil of more than 40 days outside the \$7.5 million Planned Parenthood

facility on Aurora's far East Side.

Anti-abortion advocates from across the U.S. have come to Aurora to pray for the continued closure of the medical facility that was scheduled to open Sept. 18. Because of questions about the city's permitting for the medical facility, the clinic's doors remain closed.

"We need prayer on a biblical scale," Scheidler said, calling the facility a "lightning rod of controversy."

Calling Aurora the new "ground zero" for the abortion debate, Rose and his panel discussed a number of issues they expect to flood the community if the clin-

ic opens. Of those mentioned were teen girls crossing state lines to have an abortion.

"This is not just an issue in Aurora and Kane County," Rose said. "It's an issue everywhere."

"Nationally, we don't cover local topics," Rose said of his weekly program. "But this is national. There are some defining things happening in Aurora, and they affect our audience."

"We couldn't ignore it," Shirley Rose added. "It's right in our back yard."

ewurst@scn1.com



TRAVIS HAUGHTON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Sean Seales, 10; Michael Gregory, 11; Ryan Brasley, 8; and Ryan Seales, 7, watch Market 47 perform during Music in the Alleys Saturday in downtown Geneva.

## Music from Geneva alleys a 'nice touch' for shoppers

Michele du Vair  
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

GENEVA — The recently formed Geneva Cultural Arts Commission made its presence known loud and clear Saturday with its debut of the Music in the Alleys festival.

Thirteen musical groups played in four pedestrian alleyways in downtown Geneva in an effort to boost awareness of the arts while pedestrians shopped.

"I like the outdoor venues," said musician Tiffany Dawn Haseker, of Sycamore. "But I'll sing anywhere I get the opportunity."

Haseker, an independent musician who spent six years in Nashville and is currently working on a CD, said any exposure is good for a musician, and she's happy to sing regardless of whether she's paid. "It's my passion," she said.

While Haseker's music is a blend of acoustic pop and soul, the styles at the festival ranged from classic rock to alternative and classical and acoustic guitar. Musicians played for free, but were permitted to sell CDs and accept tips.

"It's a nice little touch," said Aaron Killburg, of Batavia, who meanders along Geneva's Third

Avenue often on weekends with his wife and young daughter. "It's not so obtrusive where it might bother you if you're walking by, but it definitely adds to the ambiance."

Event coordinator Robert Hillery, of Geneva, came up with the idea of the music in the alleys festival 10 years ago after listening to an impromptu band outside of what was then Potter's Place.

"It was just really cool, and I thought you could take that idea and put it in alleys around town."

Hillery had no trouble finding area musicians to play. Some

heard it via word of mouth; others, through information provided in local media.

And though there were no tryouts this year, Hillery expects there might be in the future as the reputation of the festival grows.

The Geneva Cultural Arts Commission also is set to launch its first film festival Nov. 10 with showings planned for both Geneva City Hall and the Geneva Historical Center.

Following the film festival, the commission hopes to sponsor an ice sculpture competition in February.

## Philharmonic mixing classics with cartoons

By Michele du Vair  
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

Cartoon classics will once again merge with musical masterpieces in an upcoming concert of the Fox Valley Philharmonic.

Scheduled for 3 p.m. Oct. 7 at Aurora University's Crimi Auditorium, Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance artists will first show a classic cartoon, complete with classical music soundtrack. Immediately following the viewing, the philharmonic will perform the same classical masterpieces that were heard in the previous cartoon.

"This will be such a riot," said Jamie Palmer, music director for the Fox Valley Philharmonic. "A lot of people watch cartoons and they're not even aware they're listening to a great piece of classical music."

In one of the six cartoons planned, Bugs Bunny is standing on Elmer Fudd's head, massaging his bald skull trying to get his hair to grow, while the classical sounds of Gioachino Rossini blare in the background.

Palmer's husband, Jason, came up with the idea to blend classic cartoons with musical masterpieces, based on his childhood experiences.

Like millions of others, Jason Palmer reveled in the antics of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Mickey Mouse. It wasn't until he began studying the piano that he realized much of the music on the soundtracks were based on the works of composers like Rossini, Wagner and Grieg, Palmer's wife said.

"It's all about how the media and music go hand in hand," said Jamie Palmer.

"Kids will want to go to it, but it's not just for kids," she said. "This is also a classical music concert that will be very serious."

Tickets for the "Cartoon Classics" concert are available by calling Jamie Palmer at (630) 879-8018.

Some of the proceeds from the concert will benefit Mutual Ground, an organization dedicated to combating domestic violence.

Ornaments with the Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance logo will also be available for sale at \$18.

The Fox Valley Philharmonic's final 2007 concert, set for Dec. 2, will feature a holiday theme.

## Entertainment promoter is 7th candidate in 14th District race

By Andre Salles  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH AURORA — The race for the 14th District congressional seat just got bigger. And a whole lot funkier.

Rodolfo "Rudy" Clai, a 49-year-old entertainment promoter from North Aurora, announced this week that he will seek the Republican nomination for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Yorkville.

Clai, the son of Italian immigrants, has been involved in politics since the age of 13, when he helped his precinct captain father support candidates in Cook County.

He's had a variety of jobs, including radio promotions, advertising and restaurant management, and has remained active in politics, founding the group Citizens for a Better Fox Valley. He owns and operates Willoughby Entertainment, representing local artists in a variety of styles, from hip-hop to Celtic folk. His clients include rappers Dude 'n Nem and rock band Doggybag.

His Web site, www.rudyclai.com, sets out his positions on employment, immigration, taxes, education and health care, among other issues.

But foremost among his issues is transportation. He refers to the country's network of roads as "America's cardiovascular

system" and says we need to spend more money on infrastructure here than we do in other countries.

"Spending money is what the economy is all about, but people have to go places to spend money," he said. "How many times have you gone somewhere and then turned back halfway there because the traffic was so bad? Now multiply that by millions of people, and our economy will be going backwards."

Clai plans to use the Internet to get his message out there. On Monday, he will announce his candidacy in the form of a Webcast on his site, and also on www.youtube.com. He said he plans to send out weekly Webcasts and keep in touch with supporters through the Internet.

Clai is the seventh candidate to announce for the 14th District. On the Republican side, he will face Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns, State Sen. Chris Lauzen of Au-

rorra and Aurora dairy magnate Jim Oberweis. On the Democrat side are former Fermilab scientist Bill Foster, Geneva attorney Jotham Stein, and Hastert's most recent opponent for the seat, John Laesch of Yorkville.

Hastert announced in August that he would not seek a 12th term in office.

Clai will officially kick off his campaign at 1 p.m. Oct. 7 with a party at Riverview Banquets in Batavia.

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