

Ice during spring? Yes, please

13284

FRONT PAGE



Photo by Robert Inglis/The Danville News

Large crowds turned out at Rita's in Danville to get their free Italian ice on Thursday afternoon for the first day of spring.

Mob of patrons show up to celebrate first day of season

By Karen Blackledge
The Danville News

DANVILLE — With a cold breeze whipping around her, Kayla Share stood shivering in her sweatshirt.

But she wasn't moving inside, it was the first day of spring. That means we'll be losing the sweatshirts soon and enjoying the warm days of summer.

For Share, and many others, it's also time for an annual rite provided by a Danville business — a free 10-ounce Italian ice at Rita's.

"We were here last week too. I love Rita's," said Share, a Danville resident

**"It's never too cold
for Rita's."**

— Gary Hepfer, Danville resident

who ordered tangerine while her friend got a green apple-flavored treat.

With the mercury around 40 degrees Fahrenheit, they hurried to eat the treats in their car. It was a common theme Thursday.

SUNCOM employee Tina Leitzel of Selinsgrove ordered the new birthday cake flavor for her and the girl with her.

"We'll be eating them in a warm car," Leitzel said.

Others, like Gary Hepfer and Rachel Reichard, braved the cold in their winter coats.

Reichard ordered a pistachio treat. Hepfer, who was holding a wild black cherry, said, "It's never too cold for Rita's."

"It's a free gelati. It doesn't matter what the weather is," said Jeff Golsom

► See **SPRING**, Page **A3**

A

