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SR. ANDRE DEMBOWSKI

## Sister's 'Birthday Bash' aids the needy

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

For the second consecutive year, Sister Andre Dembowski, RSM, will hold an alternative birthday party.

Instead of bringing presents, her guests have been asked to donate to the poor.

"Last year on my 50th birthday, I decided to celebrate with a bang," Sr. Andre said. "I threw myself a party and asked people to donate to the Sisters of Mercy's Ministry Fund instead of giving me gifts."

A snowstorm didn't keep her 200 guests away - the "Birth-

*"After all, we were the dancing generation in our youth. Now our only opportunity to dance is at weddings - why not dance and help others at the same time?"*

Sr. Andre Dembowski  
Sisters of Mercy, Dallas

Bash" raised more than \$5,000 for the fund.

A deejay provided dance music for free. The refreshments were simple and guests dressed casually.

"People had so much fun that they kept teasing me that I should

do it again," she said. "After all, we were the dancing generation in our youth. Now our only opportunity to dance is at weddings - why not dance and help others at the same time?"

Sponsored by the Mercy Associates, Sr. Andre's second "Birth-

day Bash" will be February 5, from 8 p.m. until midnight at College Misericordia's Merrick Hall. Guests may dress casually and must be 21 years old or older to attend.

Each guest will complete an admission slip to be used in a prize drawing. The winners will be asked to donate their winnings to their favorite charity.

This year, Sr. Andre has expanded the invitation list to more than 600 members of all area Mercy institutions and the general public.

"I don't know how many people will attend," she said. "If you figure that the average present costs

\$15-\$25, donating that amount instead to the Ministry Fund can do a lot of good. The poor and those who want to help meet their needs are always with us."

Established by the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas, the Ministry Fund provides grants to organizations whose mission mirrors the Mercy goal of serving the poor, especially women and children.

Locally, the fund has helped a parenting group in Dallas, which conducts weekly parenting skills workshops for low-income families, according to Sr. Mary Ellen

See BIRTHDAY BASH, pg 8



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

**ANYONE HOME?** - Kingston Township Patrolman Frank Ziegler poked around the rubble from a carport roof that had collapsed. At the time, neighbors could not locate the woman who lived in

the home and feared she might be trapped. She and her son, whose car had been parked under the carport minutes earlier, returned from an errand just as a loader was about to lift the roof.

## Snow topples roofs

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

When Kingston Township resident Mary Ellen Fies saw that her neighbor's carport had collapsed, she didn't know whether or not anyone was trapped underneath.

"I heard this loud crash and looked outside," she said. "I saw the twisted metal by the door next door, ran outside and called to the road crew to radio it into the police."

She didn't even know the last name of the woman who had

See SNOW DOWNS, pg 2



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

**ROOF FALLS IN** - The barn at Hillbrook Farms, the former Schooley farm on East Center Street in Shavertown, was a victim of January's heavy snowfalls. The barn collapsed early Friday morning.

## Jackson Twp. refinances municipal building loan

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

The Jackson Township supervisors voted at a special meeting January 31 to refinance a \$310,236 loan at a fixed rate of 4.7 percent through First Eastern Bank.

Borrowed to pay for renovations to the new municipal building and removal of underground

oil tanks and surrounding pollution, the original loan had been taken out at Luzerne National Bank at 7.75 percent, a variable rate tied to the prime lending rate.

The new loan will be paid off in five years, as opposed to the original loan's seven-year term.

"We're trying to be conscientious and save the taxpayers money," said supervisor Walter

Glogowski.

At a regular work session following the special meeting, the supervisors said that they are interested in notifying the Federal Communications Commission that Jackson Township is interested in regulating its own cable television rates and instructed Evans to find out the benchmark rates and what paperwork will be required from the FCC.

Glogowski said that several residents with experience in communications had told him that they are interested in serving on a cable television regulatory committee. He expects to appoint the committee at the February 7 meeting.

Anyone interested in working on this committee may contact township secretary Henry Zbiek.

## Record lows mean big bills

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

January's cold weather has also set another record - the number of calls for home heating oil, kerosene and emergency heating assistance.

According to Gene Brady of the Commission on Economic Opportunity in Wilkes-Barre, his staff has worked seven days a week for the past three weeks, handling nearly 600 heating crisis calls in a month when they normally receive 100.

Administered by CEO, the heating assistance crisis program supplies 100 gallons of home heating oil or kerosene, or one ton of coal per heating season to needy families and is funded by the state and federal governments.

"Most of our callers have run

### What is a degree day? Page 12

out of fuel and don't have the money to buy more," Brady said. "The utilities have called for conservation, but that's a double-edged sword. Lowering a thermostat to 60° will certainly save fuel, but it can lead to hypothermia over a long period of time, especially in the elderly."

He suggested that residents keep their thermostats around 65-70° and counteract the cold by dressing in layers and eating warm foods.

See BIG BILLS, pg 12

## Make-up days will shorten vacations

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Staff

Recent snowstorms and record-breaking cold weather resulting in Governor Casey's declaring a three-day cold emergency has played havoc with area school districts.

Both Dallas and Lake-Lehman must juggle their calendars to make up nine student days lost to this winter so far. More severe winter storms could mean more school cancellations and makeup days.

**Dallas**

According to superintendent Gerald Wycallis, the students will probably lose two days of Easter vacation and Presidents' Day.

### How schools decide when to close, pg. 2

Students will attend school February 21 and April 5 and 6, Wycallis said. If necessary, March 31 (Holy Thursday) and April 3 (Easter Monday) will also be school days.

Graduation has been rescheduled to June 17, while the last day of school for all other students will be June 21, if the school board approves the proposed changes, Wycallis said.

"The unionized non-professional employees must approve

See MAKE-UP DAYS, pg 2

■ **New tech** Keeps Payne Precision Graphics on the path to progress. Page 3.

■ **The weight comes off** and you can pledge to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Page 9.

### INDEX

12 Pages 1 Section Calendar.....	8
Classified.....	10-11
Crossword.....	8
Editorials.....	4
Obituaries.....	8, 10
School.....	7
Sports.....	9

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