

Pet store

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Kenneth's son. "Where the tank systems stand now is where the milk was once homogenized." Now, 35 years later, Bill Rice is running the ship and explained why they switched to retail.

"Much like Office Depot and big warehouse stores like that, there are large pet food places that compete with the smaller businesses," said Bill Rice, who has worked in the store since he was 12 years old. "So, we decided to go back and concentrate on what we're good at, the tropical fish and other pets."

Rice gets his fish from all over the world. Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines are just a few of regions from where these exotic fish come.

The other pets range from hamsters and guinea pigs to chameleons and an occasional snake. Walking into the store is much like walking into the aquarium at the zoo. Rice has tank after tank of both tropical and fresh water fish, some with dazzling colors and stripes, others with amazing angles and shapes are fascinating.

For the more traditional fish owner, the store gets in approximately 10,000 goldfish a week. Goldfish are bought for both pets and food.

"I didn't know this place existed. It's nice to find someplace so close."

Maureen Shepard Noxen

Rice has three water treatment systems to keep the fish happy and healthy. One is for fresh water, one for marine and a refrigeration system because the goldfish require a cooler atmosphere.

In addition to the animals, Rice sells a variety of pet supplies that one local woman, who had just discovered the store was very pleased to find. "I didn't know this place existed. It's nice to find someplace so close," said Maureen Shepard of Noxen, as she picked out supplies for her fish at home. "I like this place. I wish I knew of it sooner."

Rice said that business is getting better every day and it's nice to see people. "In the wholesale business we never had many people here in the shop," he said. "I never realized so many people in the area had aquariums and pets," he said laughing.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Joe Stravinsky set up the creche at Gate of Heaven Church last week, in anticipation of the Christmas holiday.

School

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into temporary solutions for the middle school until a feasibility study is completed.

The board voted to appoint the Quad Three Group to complete the district's feasibility study at a cost of \$2,800. The study will help the district decide if a new structure should be built to replace the existing middle school. The study results should be available within 180 days.

The board also voted to refinance \$2.9 million in existing debt until 2002 and to borrow an additional \$1.4 million in new money which will be financed until 2005. The total district's debt after the issuance of General Obligation Bonds will be \$4,375,000.

The new money is being borrowed for general repairs and upkeep which include roof repairs, removal of underground tanks, gutter work, and paving, according to superintendent Price. He said the work is all subject to approval by the board and that any remaining money can be returned to the bond. "The laundry list of repairs will be scrutinized. We are not looking at the \$1.4 million as a spending spree," Price said.

Williams appointed new board coordinators during the meeting. Karen Whipple was appointed as curriculum instruction coordinator. Samuel Rhodes was selected for athletics and activities, David Kaufman for Buildings and Grounds, Gary Miller for transportation, Rose Howard for support services, and Lois Kopcha for school board. Samuel Rhodes and Mildred Dobash were appointed as legislative council representatives to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

During the work session prior to the meeting, high School librarian, Marybeth Shields, along with technical coordinator, Rose Ragnacci, demonstrated the school's recently acquired computer technology. The district purchased six computers for library research with money received from a Title 6 Grant.

The computers allow students to access complete newspaper articles from *The New York Times* as well as some magazines. The computers also access the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and several reference sources. The library is now equipped to send and receive books from other libraries in Pennsylvania. Ragnacci said they soon hope to make the Internet available for student use.

Lorraine Kotshull, director of special education, reported positive initial feedback from an audit done by the Bureau of Special Education. The full report will be

available in 10 to 12 weeks. Kotshull said, "At this time, one area that will need adjustment is the teacher to student ratio." Kotshull believes the situation can be remedied at no additional cost to the district through schedule changes.

Subdivision

(continued from page 1)

adopted the budget for 1997 and set tax rates for the new year. Taxes remain unchanged from last year. The real estate transfer is one half of 1 percent, earned income tax is 1 percent and there is no property tax.

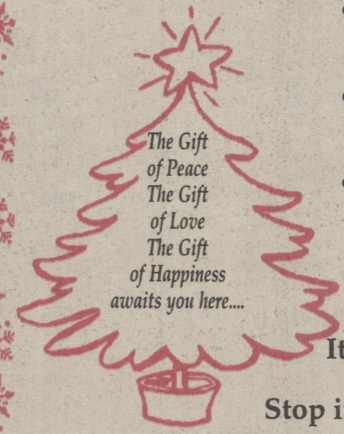
The board also authorized payments to Senate Construction in the amount of \$147,709, B.J. Electric in the amount of \$7,153 and Linco Construction in the amount of \$2,295 for work completed in

November on the Public Works Facility. It approved membership of the township in the proposed Northeastern Pennsylvania Assembly of Governments, having Paul Sabol, chairperson, serve as the township's representative.

A reorganization meeting was scheduled for Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. and the Public Works Session for Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Jan. 8, at 8 p.m.

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