

Trustees mull issue Tax increase pondered

The Claremore School Board will meet March 11 to consider putting a property tax increase on the ballot for voters' approval.

Supt. David McDowell said this week that the district needs an estimated three mills (25¢ per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation) just to continue existing programs and services.

He said the three mills would generate about \$200,000 in new revenues.

The school board, which discussed the fi-

financial problems for the 1976-77 school year last week, hasn't decided yet if a millage request will be put before the voters or what election date should be picked.

The next regularly scheduled elections are the May 18 presidential primary and the June 14 annual school board ballot.

McDOWELL said three mills are needed to raise the \$200,000 to finance an expected 4.75 per cent increase in all areas of the operating budget.

In the financial report to the board, McDowell said that the district faces one of three possibilities for next year's budget—a deficit of about \$25,000, a deficit of nearly \$77,000 or surplus of \$19,000, depending on how the state aid revenues are computed.

McDowell admitted that the state aid per student, now at \$408.64, will go to either a \$422.94 or \$438.53 level but that will be offset by the loss of 130 students. Actual state income will be about the same as this year.

If Claremore uses Gov. William Milliken's proposed state aid recommendations for next year, the district would be facing a deficit of \$25,000, McDowell said.

PART OF the problem, he continued, is that the new state single business tax eliminated about 1.8 per cent of the property tax base from the tax roll by removing personal inventory from local businesses.

The district's base of \$84.1 million for this year was expected to increase to \$91 million next year—but the new state law means a cut to \$80 million, McDowell told the board.

In the current fiscal year, the personal property inventory accounted for \$7.3 million of the \$84.1 million tax base with most of it, or \$5.4 million, in the Livonia section of the district.

The projected budget for next year includes the layoff of six teachers to reflect the expected loss of 130 students, he added.

McDowell said that employees will receive scheduled salary increments. Union contracts expire this spring or summer with two employee groups, including the 130-member Claremore Education Association, which represents the teachers.

In explaining the possibility of a tax increase, the superintendent said:

"We feel now that if the budget continues to look as it does now, there will be reductions in staff and programs."

"The people in the district have faithfully voted millage renewals in the past and they should be the ones to determine whether the cuts should be made."

THE DISTRICT received overwhelming voter approval for an 11 mill renewal in a Jan. 19 special election. That levy will continue for 10 years.

The district now pays \$3.9 mills (\$3.90 per \$1,000) for operations and another seven mills for debt.



JAMES PFALL

Students win math prizes

Two Farmington high school students were honored at the 19th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition awards program at Western Michigan University recently.

Alfred E. Jean of Harrison High School and Daniel Tognaschi of North Farmington High School were among the state's top high school mathematicians. They were bronze award winners and received \$100.

Students win debate title

Michael Duggan of Livonia and James Pines of Farmington helped their Catholic Central High School of Detroit win the Class A state title in the 90th annual Michigan Intercollegiate Forensic Association debate competition.

The event was held recently on the Central Michigan University campus in Mt. Pleasant.

Duggan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Duggan, of 12800 Riverdale, while Pines is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pines of 22843 Manning. They paired successfully on the negative position of the resolution, "Resolved: That the development and allocation of scarce world resources should be controlled by an international organization."

Duggan and Pines, Catholic Central seniors, are also National Merit semi-finalists and National Honor Society members.

They will represent Michigan in the national finals to be held in Denver, Colo.

Their coach is Frank Gerlick. An estimated 200 students competed in the state finals.

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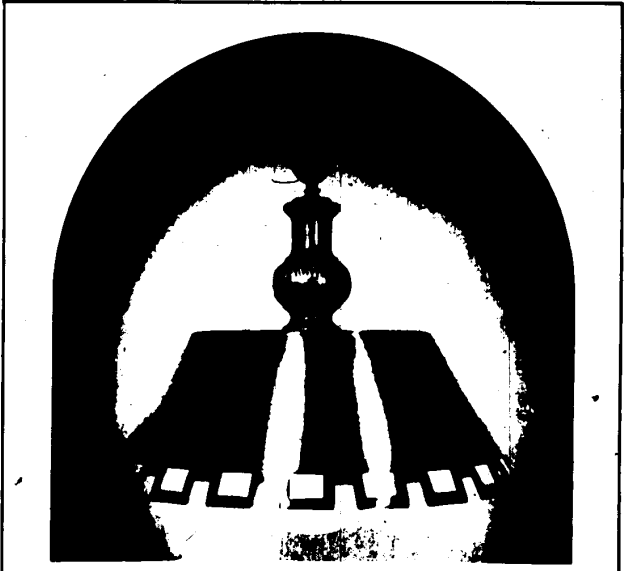
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Dompierre added to honor's list

Jeanne Marie Dompierre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Dompierre, 32125 Marbledale, Farmington, was named to the Dean's List of Northwood Institute, Midland, Michigan.

She has earned above a 3.0 average at the school.

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Reed wins prize for persuasion

Susan Reed of Farmington Hills won an award in persuasion at the Wayne State University Invitational Forensic Tournament recently. She is a member of the Orchard Ridge Forensic Team at Oakland County Community College.

The team will compete at the Michigan State Community College Tournament at Macomb County Community College and the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament and Oral Interpretation Festival at Western Michigan University.

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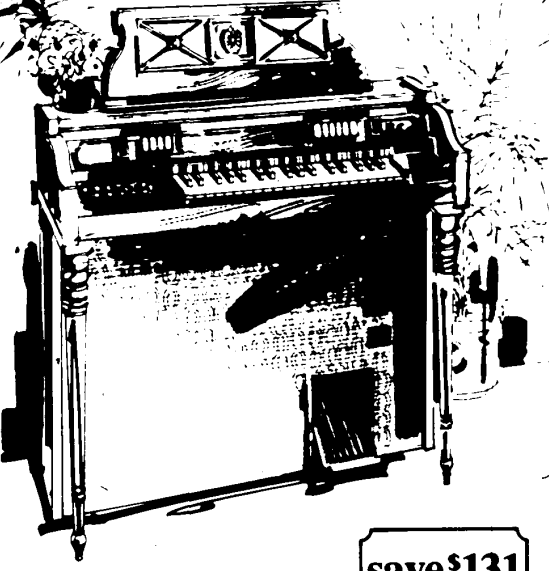
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