

**BOND:** Sisters is in line for additional state funds

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wisely,” Wilkins told *The Nugget*. He believes it is important that the district manage the bond funds in such a manner that “no” voters “in hindsight, when that money is deployed, (think) that it was the right call.”

He said that “a lot of people weren’t convinced by our intentions. We have to convince them with our actions.”

What those actions will be when it comes to managing additional funds from state grants is not yet clear. Some local residents have expressed the hope that the district will reduce the original bond

amount by a commensurate amount, effectively returning money to the taxpayers. It is not clear at this time whether that is a legally viable option.

“My advice would be not to rush to anything right now,” said schools superintendent Curt Scholl.

He noted that costs of construction and materials are tending higher right now and that the district had already acknowledged that some planned projects might fall off the priority list if funds were insufficient. The additional state matching funds could relieve the district of much of that concern.

“I would say it’s an opportunity to make sure we get all the projects done that we wanted to get done,” Scholl said.

Wilkins — emphasizing

that he was speaking only as a citizen, not on behalf of the district — said that he would like to see the district fund ongoing maintenance needs to avoid the kind of deferred maintenance that has been the district’s course over the past several years in their effort to keep budget cuts away from the classroom. Additionally, Wilkins said, matching funds could help the district defer any further bond requests — projected for after high school bonds roll off the books in 2021 — by a few years.

Scholl said he is “extremely grateful” for the support of the community, and noted that such support is not just financial or expressed at the ballot box.

“It’s overwhelming, the partnerships that happen in this community,” he said.

**Smokejumpers featured at museum**

For more than 75 years, specially trained women and men have been jumping out of airplanes and parachuting into remote wildfires. Smokejumpers: Firefighters from the Sky is a new exhibit at the High Desert Museum, which explores this history and the evolution of aerial firefighting techniques and technology.

Smokejumpers opens at the museum June 4.

“Thirty years after the Wright Brothers, parachutes

and planes transformed firefighting in the Pacific Northwest,” said Curator of Western History Laura Ferguson. “This exhibit explores the dangers and rewards of firefighting, and seemed like a natural fit for the museum considering the proximity of the Redmond Smokejumpers Base and prevalence of wildfires in the High Desert.”

The exhibit introduces the history of wildland firefighting in the Pacific Northwest

through photographs and artifacts such as firefighting tools, fire shelters, drip torches and a smokejumper mannequin provided by the National Smokejumper Association. The exhibit also highlights some of the major fire events throughout the last 100 years.

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