

Leaver, Zadow run for school board

By **Jim Cornelius**
News Editor

Longtime Sisters physical therapist Greg Zadow and educator and school budget committee member Lachlan Leaver have both thrown their hat into the ring for Postion 2 on the Sisters School Board.

Greg Zadow

Greg Zadow has had three children in Sisters schools and he figures it's time to give back.

"I've reaped the benefits of having a good school district, and I thought it was time to do my bit to pay back," he says.

Friends encouraged him to run, and "I couldn't think of a good excuse not to," he says.

"I don't have any experience; I don't have a particular agenda other than to make our schools and our community as strong as they can be," he says.

Though Zadow hasn't been directly involved with district policy, his work helps him keep his finger on the pulse of the community's attitude toward their schools. Folks talk to him, and they've expressed some "trepidation" regarding finances.

People are concerned, Zadow says, "about whether the school (district) can keep

up its appeal and level of expertise. I think people are a little worried about whether we can keep up that high standard."

To ensure the best outcome in troubled times, Zadow believes, the district needs to "set very firm, specific objectives for what it wants to achieve."

Zadow is willing to do his part to set those objectives and create plans to meet them. Specifically, he is supportive of efforts to recruit students in from outside the district.

Lachlan Leaver

Lachlan Leaver and his wife, Jenn Noble, moved to Sisters from Bend a year ago. Jenn works at the school-based health center and on contract with Sisters Elementary School as a counselor, so the move made sense logistically. But more significantly, they wanted to be in the Sisters School District.

"One of the important things for us was to put down roots," Lachlan said.

With three kids in Sisters schools, the district has lived up to their expectations.

Leaver describes the past year in Sisters schools as "far better than what we experienced in Bend."

He says that teachers in

Sisters really know their students.

"They know when to push, when to ease off, when to make accommodations," he says.

And, he says, they recognize the "huge importance" of being attentive to students' mental-health needs.

That's something Leaver is acutely attuned to. Lachlan teaches at J-Bar-J Youth Ranch, with at-risk kids.

"There are so many elements that make it really hard to be a kid growing up," he says. "We're responding to that need."

Leaver notes that students in Sisters have "rich, rich experiences," thanks in part to a strong arts connection with the community, which he thinks is very valuable.

He wants to be part of the effort to preserve and enhance the programs and qualities that set Sisters schools apart — aspects of Sisters education the district cannot afford to see degraded or lost.

"It's easier to maintain them than to recreate it again," he says. "If you've got something good, feed it, nourish it ... put your resources toward it."

Ballots are in voters' hands. The election is May 19.

Run Across America...



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters students participated in a 13-day health and fitness program where they earned rewards for laps at recess.



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Lachlan Leaver.



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Greg Zadow.

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