



Connie & Vern Nielson

Nielsons will mark 50th

Vern and Connie Nielson will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Aug. 10 during a reception at Selma Community Center.

Connie Kilzer Nielson is the daughter of Joe and Vickie Kilzer of Missoula, Mont. She has two sisters, Joan Larson, of North Plains, Ore., and Jan Tilzey, of Sparks, Nev.

Vern Nielson is the son of Arthur and Margaret Nielson, of Denver. He was raised in a family of three sisters and eight brothers.

The couple were married Aug. 10, 1957 in a double-ring ceremony in Montana. They lived in Denver until moving in 1975 to Eastern Oregon where they operated a successful cattle and wheat farm for the next 23 years.

Vern and Connie retired and moved to Cave Junction nine years ago. They have two children of their own, Tim Nielson, of Portland; and Kay Nielson, of Selma.

Valley locations listed by Bayless RiverView Realty

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

Rogue River-based Bayless RiverView Realty now offers listings in Illinois Valley.

Owner and principal broker Scott Bayless said that it is part of an effort to better accommodate customers.

“When people come to look for something, we take them where they want to go,” Bayless said. “We pretty much cover the entire market, and try to be full service.”

As part of its expansive coverage, Bayless RiverView Realty has one agent living in Rogue River, one in Wolf Creek and three in Grants Pass. Broker Marilyn Martin resides in Selma.

Bayless said that local agents tend to know more about housing values, schools and neighborhoods. They can therefore provide

important insight on those matters to potential buyers.

“It helps to have an agent who lives in the area where they are selling or marketing,” Bayless said. Martin, who has been a real estate broker for five years, said that buyers have a greater selection of home types in rural areas.

“The inventory is definitely diversified,” Martin said. “People have a lot to choose from.”

Recent slumps in the housing market mean that buyers have more power to set the terms of a sale and a larger variety of homes available for purchase, Martin said.

For the long-term, Southwestern Oregon’s real estate market will remain viable, Bayless said. That’s because the climate and quality of life make it a desirable place to live, he noted.



Marilyn Martin and O'Brien clients. (IVN photo)

Bayless RiverView Realty currently has two listings in Illinois Valley. One, at 37060 Redwood Hwy., features 5 level acres and a 4-year-old, three-bedroom, two bathroom 2,000-plus square-foot ranch-style home with a covered deck, RV parking and a new two-car garage. All appliances are included in the home, listed at \$325,000.

The other listing is a four-bedroom, two-bath 1,700+ square-foot home listed for \$180,000 at 426 S. Old Stage Road in Cave Junction.

For more information on Bayless RiverView Realty or its listings, visit BaylessRiverViewRealty.com or phone 582-1601.

Misgivings expressed regarding federal Real ID Act

By **SCOTT JORGENSEN**
IVN Staff Writer

Oregon’s property rights laws and the federal Real ID Act of 2005 were addressed by state Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point) before a chapter of the John Birch Society in Grants Pass.

Approximately 25 persons attended the Tuesday evening, July 24 meeting in Fruitdale Grange Hall.

Richardson explained that the Real ID Act was added as a rider to an Iraq War spending bill, and was not debated in Congress prior to passage. Once implemented, the law would establish a national standard for driver’s licenses.

Under the act, states have a May 2008 deadline for implementation. They may be granted an extension to December 2009 if they demonstrate progress toward implementation.

Bearers of noncompliant documents would no longer be able to enter federal buildings including posts offices; be denied financial or banking services; and face several other restrictions.

Standardized ID cards would be produced with original documents, which would be entered into a national database.

Richardson said that the Real ID Act would not be effective in combating domestic terrorism. He cited Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, and convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, saying that they would have been able to obtain the necessary IDs.

The lack of fixed guidelines for securing the information is a huge concern, Richardson said. He added that databases have been stolen from several state and U.S. government agencies.

Storing the data on bar codes would be the preferred method, Richardson said, as an encryption process would be too difficult. But the use of bar code technology raises serious issues.

“This is, in my opinion, very dangerous,” Richardson warned.

Implementation of the Real ID would cost the state of Oregon an estimated \$63 million, Richardson said, making it an “unfunded mandate.” States may be

forced to raise car registration and other related fees in order to pay for the implementation, Richardson said.

“That cost is going to come from somewhere,” he said.

Several states have passed measures rejecting Real ID, including New Hampshire, Maine, Utah, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois and Montana.

Richardson said that he received 2,400 responses to a survey on the issue in one of his recent newsletter updates. Of those respondents, Richardson said, 93 percent said that Oregon should not comply with the federal law.

When the question of Oregon’s compliance was raised during the 2007 legislative session, Richardson said, he was one of four Republicans to vote against implementation of the act.

“It’s not safe, it’s not reliable, and it’s not secure,” Richardson said. “We cannot allow the federal government to control us to such an extent.”

He expressed concern regarding some recent actions by the Bush admini-

stration. He cited as an example an executive order signed by President Bush on July 17 stating that any person or organization that takes action against the Iraq War could see all their property seized.

“We walk in perilous times,” Richardson said.

Under the Bush administration, the United States has incurred the largest increase in Medicare expenses since Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency, Richardson said. And it has experienced less balance of power in the federal system.

Richardson said that Bush has deviated from the principles of true conservatism by running up large deficits and failing to limit the size and scope of government.

Oregon’s property rights laws also were discussed during the forum.

Measure 37 was passed in 2004 by 61 percent of Oregon voters. It stated that if a governing body takes any action that lowers the value of a citizen’s property, that citizen can apply to either receive compensation

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Data on Senate Bill 360 provided

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your safe zone,” she said.

Spellman said that under SB 360, residents “have a legal obligation” to create defensible space around their homes and properties. Funds are available through the Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) as well as the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization for low-income seniors to come into compliance with those requirements, she said.

Residents concerned about SB 360 should contact their state legislators, Gov. Kulongoski and ODF Fire Prevention Specialist Brian Ballou, Spellman said.

“They work for you,” Spellman said.

She added that an Illinois Valley Fire Plan was established in 2005. She wrote fire prevention prescriptions for valley residents, and ODF signed off on the plan, along with the federal Bureau of Land Management, the city of Cave Junction, Siskiyou Project and the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

Grant money was used

to create the plan, Spellman said, so it has been documented with those agencies, including ODF.

“They have the database,” Spellman said. “They didn’t use it.”

Spellman characterized SB 360 as being “poorly written.” She stated that the state and federal governments have failed to act as

partners in this process.

Citizens should be “armed with education” about SB 360, Spellman said. She urged audience members to attend any meetings regarding the legislation.

Spellman said that greater public input will cause state agencies to be more responsive to resi-

dents’ concerns.

“ODF has to present this to you in a better form, and they will,” she concluded.



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