

SUNDAY

DAILY INTER LAKE

er 12, 2004

SERVING THE FLATHEAD SINCE 1888 ••• www.dailyinterlake.com

age A14

THE DAILY INTER LAKE

Sunday, September 12, 2004

BUSINESS/POLITICS

Home inspectors to meet Saturday

The Northwest Montana chapter of the National Association of Certified Home Inspectors will have its first meeting at 6 p.m. Saturday in the WestCoast Kalispell Center Hotel.

The new trade group formed to pursue two goals. In the short term, they want to find out how many people are doing home inspections in the area. In the longer term, they want to push legislation that would require home inspections, ideally before a house is put on the market.

"Many states require them, but not here," said Judy Kirby, who runs an inspection service and is organizing the local NACHI chapter with her husband, Bruce.

"We're not sure if they're even suggested," added Bruce Kirby.

A home inspection can identify problems before a buyer is stuck with them — everything from tilted counters and improperly hung doors to outdated wiring and expiring hot water heaters.

"It's just to make sure everything's right," Bruce Kirby said. "It's all right to buy a lemon, if you know you're getting a lemon."

The meeting is free and open to anyone interested in home inspections, including real estate agents, mortgage lenders and appraisers. An optional dinner will be served for \$25 a person.

Speaking at the meeting will be Richard F. Doran, past president of the Northwest Montana Association of Realtors; John Podolinsky of the state Department of Environmental Quality; Nick Gromicko, a Realtor, ad agency owner and executive director of NACHI; Lorne Steiner of Porter Valley Software; and Bruce Kirby.

The topics to be addressed include home inspections in the Montana market, asbestos, marketing home inspections, avoiding litigation and home inspection ethics.

For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Gromicko at nick.gromicko@nachi.org