



Contact: Patricia Highley
Education Outreach Coordinator
(208) 332-8077

NEWS RELEASE

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October 20, 2014

THE WEISER SENIOR SCAM JAM CONFERENCE IS OCTOBER 23RD

Keynote Presentations Will Feature Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden and Weiser Mayor Diana Thomas

Boise, Idaho The Idaho Department of Finance is proud to cosponsor the 2014 Scam Jam Conference in Weiser on Thursday October 23, 2014. The popular conference will be held at the Vendome Event Center at 309 State Street and feature speakers whose topics will include avoiding investment fraud, Medicare fraud, identity theft and other frauds and financial abuse that often target seniors.

Doors open at 8 a.m. and the conference kicks off at 9 a.m. with **Master of Ceremonies Tom Anderson, District 1 Washington County Commissioner**, as well as a keynote presentation by **Diana Thomas, Mayor of the City of Weiser**. At lunch a keynote address will be presented by **Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden**. The conference runs until 3:30 p.m., when there will be "**A Call To Action**" by **AARP Volunteer Cheryl Tussey** and a drawing for door prizes. The conference includes a complimentary lunch and refreshments.

Those interested in attending may register through AARP by calling toll free **1-877-926-8300** or online at http://aarp.cvent.com/ID_ScamJamWeiser. Pre-registration is encouraged but registration on the day of the event also is allowed. A brochure outlining the event schedule and speaker topics for the conference is available on the department's Web site under "News and Announcements" at <http://finance.idaho.gov>.

The sponsors and supporters joining to offer this free Senior Scam Jam Conference include the **Idaho Department of Finance**, the **Idaho Commission On Aging**, **Better Business Bureau**, the **Idaho Department of Insurance**, **Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)**, **AARP**, the **Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP)**, **Justice Alliance for Vulnerable Adults (JAVA)**, **Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Boise)**, **Idaho Crime Prevention Association**, the **Idaho Bankers Association**, the **Idaho Credit Union League**, **Area Agency on Aging Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**, **State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP)**, **Boise State Public Radio**, and **National Public Radio (NPR)**.

The Senior Scam Jam will address topics that include reverse mortgages, preventing abuse of living will advance directives, Medicare fraud, caregiver scams, as well as tips on how to avoid being a victim of identity theft. Seniors also will learn how to recognize and avoid exploitation that can jeopardize their financial future. During morning and afternoon breakout sessions, **Department of Finance Securities Investigator Coleen Hodson** will offer a presentation on avoiding *investment fraud*. The department also will have a booth where attendees can receive free educational information on investment and consumer fraud.

In addition to the Department of Finance's participation, experts from around Idaho will be presenting information and tips on how to avoid scams and abuse that target senior citizens. Speakers include representatives from the **Idaho Crime Prevention Association**, the **Idaho Department of Insurance (SHIBA)**, the **U.S. Postal Inspector**, the **Area Agency on Aging**, and the **Weiser Police Department**.

Consumers can obtain information about financial firms, professionals or products, as well as view more Department press releases and other information on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.
