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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Scam Jams coming to Pocatello & Idaho Falls May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Idaho Department of Finance Joins Forces with the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance for this Free Conference**

Boise, Idaho .... The Idaho Department of Finance is cosponsoring two Idaho Scam Jam conferences in eastern Idaho during the month of May. The first Scam Jam will be held on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Inn in Pocatello. The second Scam Jam will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. Presentation topics include information on preventing financial and investment fraud, tips for avoiding mail fraud, reverse mortgage information, and tips on how to avoid telephone scams.

The conferences will be hosted by the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance, of which the Idaho Department of Finance is a member. The Alliance is a broad-based coalition of non-profit organizations and State agencies committed to educating and arming citizens with the tools they need to identify and protect against fraud and identity theft.

The May 14<sup>th</sup> Pocatello Scam Jam begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m. sharp, the conference will kick off with welcoming remarks from Mark Dahlquist of Neighborworks Pocatello. Mr. Dahlquist also will introduce keynote speaker Charles A. Harwood, Northwest Region director of the Federal Trade Commission. To register for the Pocatello Conference call **1-877-926-8300** or go online [here](#). The registration deadline for the Pocatello Scam Jam is Sunday, May 13.

The May 15<sup>th</sup> Idaho Falls Scam Jam begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. At 10:00 a.m., Master of Ceremonies David Manson, of the Community Food Basket of Idaho Falls, will kick off the conference with welcoming remarks and introduce keynote speaker Charles A. Harwood, NW Regional Director of the Federal Trade Commission. To register for the Idaho Falls Conference call **1-877-926-8300** or go online [here](#). Registration deadline for the Idaho Falls Scam Jam is Monday, May 14.

Attendees may also register for both Scam Jams through a link on the Idaho Department of Finance's calendar of events at <http://www.finance.idaho.gov/Calendar.aspx>.

The conference, which runs until 3 p.m. each day, includes a complimentary lunch, refreshments, and a drawing for door prizes.

Members of the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance supporting the eastern Idaho events include the **Idaho Department of Finance**, the **Better Business Bureau (BBB)**, the **Idaho Department of Insurance**, **SHIBA**, the **Idaho Office of the Attorney General**, **AARP**, **Idaho Commission on Aging**, **Senior Medicare Patrol**, **Justice Alliance for Vulnerable Adults (JAVA)**, and **Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Boise)**. The conferences are funded by the Idaho Department of Finance and through a grant obtained by the Idaho Commission on Aging's Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

The Scam Jam conferences' special guest speakers include keynote speaker **Charles Harwood**, Northwest Region director of the Federal Trade Commission, **Marcel Korvela**, US Postal Inspector, and **Mark Dahlquist**, director, and **Shawna Engen**, chief financial officer of Neighborworks Pocatello.

**Heather Croft** of Senior Medicare Patrol and **Cherisse Brown** of SHIBA will present on Medicare fraud prevention. Department of Finance Securities Bureau Senior Securities analyst **Patricia Highley** will offer a presentation titled “*Investment Scams and Swindles: Facts on Investment Fraud*” during a breakout session in Idaho Falls.

The Department of Finance also will have a booth where attendees can receive free educational information on investments, mortgages, cybersecurity, and consumer finance.

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