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NEWS RELEASE

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SCAM JAM COMING TO COEUR D'ALENE MAY 19TH

*Idaho Department of Finance Joins Forces with the Idaho Commission on Aging
and the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance for this Free 2016 Conference*

Boise, Idaho The Idaho Department of Finance is co-sponsoring Idaho's 2016 Coeur d'Alene Scam Jam Conference on Thursday, May 19th at **The Coeur d'Alene Inn**, 506 W. Appleway Avenue, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. This popular conference, the second of four to be held in Idaho in 2016, will host a variety of topics, including information on preventing financial fraud including investment fraud and identity theft avoidance tips.

The Idaho Scam Jam Alliance is a broad based coalition of non-profit organizations and state agencies with the goal of educating and arming the public with the tools they need to identify and stay protected from fraud and identity theft.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. and the conference kicks off at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies conducted by **Master of Ceremonies Dan English, Coeur d'Alene City Council**. The keynote speaker for the event is **Brett DeLange, Consumer Protection Division Chief and Deputy AG for the Office of the Attorney General**. The conference runs until 3:45 p.m., when there will be a drawing for door prizes and includes a complimentary lunch and refreshments.

Those interested in attending may register through AARP **by May 18th** by calling toll free **1-877-926-8300** or online at http://aarp.cvent.com/ID_ScamJamCDA2016 or on a link on the department's calendar of events located at www.finance.idaho.gov/calendar.aspx.

The sponsors and supporters that have joined together to offer this free Scam Jam Conference include, the **Idaho Department of Finance**, the **Better Business Bureau (BBB)**, the **Idaho Department of Insurance, SHIBA**, the **City of Coeur d'Alene**, the **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)**, **Justice Alliance for Vulnerable Adults (JAVA)**, and **Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Boise)**. The conference is partly funded through a grant obtained by the **Idaho Commission on Aging's Senior Medicare Patrol Program**.

The Scam Jam will address Medicare fraud, financial scams, and tips on how to avoid being a victim of identity theft. Attendees will also learn how to recognize and avoid exploitation that can jeopardize their financial future. Department of Finance Securities Bureau Investigator, **Tim Martin**, will offer a presentation titled "**Recognize and Avoid Investment Fraud**" during a breakout session. **Jo Ann Lanham**, Consumer Affairs Officer in the Consumer Finance Bureau, will conduct a presentation titled "**Credit Reports: A Snapshot of Your Financial Life.**" The department will also have a booth where attendees can receive free educational information on investments, mortgages, cybersecurity, and consumer finance. In addition to the Department of Finance's participation, experts presenting at the conference include representatives from the **Post Falls Police Department**, **Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh**, and the **Idaho State Tax Commission**.

The Coeur d'Alene Scam Jam is the second of four fraud prevention conferences in 2016 being conducted by the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance. Conferences remaining this year are planned for **Salmon** on September 15th and **Preston** with a date to be determined. Further information regarding the upcoming Scam Jams will be provided on the Department of Finance website.

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.