From: Ross Doman To: Doman, Ross

Date: 5/10/2005 4:15:03 PM

Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY / CALENDAR ITEM FROM THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH

May 10, 2005

NOTE TO EDITORS: A pdf file is attached containing the summit's agenda and speaker bios.

*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

On May 18-20 the Aging Division of the Wyoming Department of Health will present the "Wyoming Governor's Summit on Aging: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Best Western Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne.

In the next three years, 77 million Baby Boomers will turn age 65 - more than doubling the current population of seniors. Wyoming continues to be one of the most rapidly aging states in the country and the latest demographic projections indicate that, by the year 2020, Wyoming will be fifth in the nation for the proportion of its population over age 65.

Please visit this conference to examine the pending demographic shift and find effective ways to meet the future challenges and embrace the opportunities.

.....

Fact Sheet: Aging in Wyoming Demographics

- Between 1990 and 2000, Wyoming saw an increase of 22.2% in its population age 65 and older, compared to a 12% increase for the nation's 65+ population.
- The average age in Wyoming was 38 in 2004, up from 32.1 in 1990, and 36.2 in 2000.
- The population of Wyoming citizens aged 85+ (those with the greatest service needs) grew by 48% during the period of 1990-2000. Wyoming continues to be one of the fastest aging states in the U.S.
- The most recent study by AARP projects that, by the year 2030, Wyoming will have the 5th highest proportion of people age 65+ in the nation. The latest report by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that Wyoming is projected to be the second oldest state in the country by 2030.
- In 2002, 8.2% of Wyoming citizens over the age of 65 were living at or below the poverty level. An additional 27.3 % were living between 101-200% of the poverty level (3.5% higher than U.S. average).
- Of those age 75+, more than 18% live in households with incomes less than \$10,000 per year, with women being more than twice as likely as men to be poor.
- 15.2% of those age 65+ have a Bachelor level education or higher (compared to 16.7% US).
- Over a third of the WY population aged 65+ live in rural areas, compared to a national average of less than 22%. (Note: This depends on your definition of rural.)
- Older persons in Wyoming tend to rely on personal vehicles for their transportation. Only 10% of older adults over age 70 do not have a vehicle.
- Wyoming ranks fifth in the US for the percentage of persons age 75+ with drivers licenses (82.7%).

- The homeowner rate for those age 65+ is 82.7% (about 4% higher than the national average).
- end -

For more information, please contact Tim Ernst, Aging Division Community Services Representative, Wyoming Department of Health, (307) 777-6102.