

Money Smart Week offers finance tips

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Connie Lawson

Connie Lawson's primary jobs as Secretary of State are to charter new business, oversee elections and regulate securities.

But Lawson said the securities division needs to expand beyond investment scams and licensing financial advisers.

"We're learning that people really need information about how to budget, how to save, what's a need, what's a want?" Lawson explained.

For example, stop buying a \$5 cup of coffee each weekday, and you'll save \$1,300 per year.

"That could start a nice rainy-day fund," Lawson said.

Lawson spoke on the Ivy Tech Community College Lafayette campus Monday to kick off the community's Money Smart Week activities. It's part of a national effort to help people better manage their personal finances.

"People have just finished their taxes and they're thinking about how they spend their money," Ivy Tech spokesman Tom McCool said.

A communitywide Money Smart group created a Facebook page that lists resources and local events scheduled at Ivy Tech and Purdue University. This week's workshops address financial planning needs for people of all ages, including retirement, saving for college and teaching kids about money.

Lawson even created a Web page and brochure to help couples talk about money before they tie the knot.

"Debt, and bringing it into the marriage, can be one of the biggest stresses a couple can experience during the first few years of marriage," Lawson said.

— Chris Morisse Vizza/
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Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson spoke on the Ivy Tech Lafayette campus Monday to kick off the community's Money Smart Week activities.

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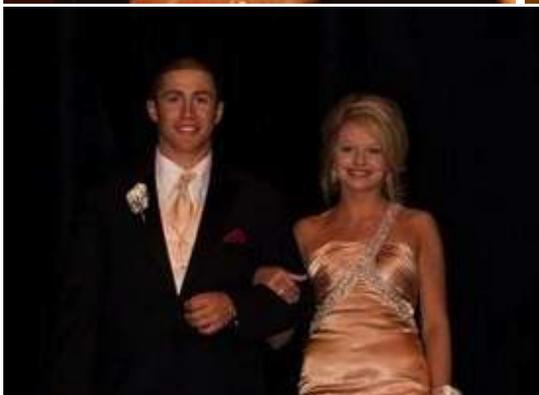
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