

Northrop's Phillips, others ready for state track finals.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD COVERAGE, 1S

Annual 'Focus' section takes a look at health and education.

INSIDE TODAY'S NEWS-SENTINEL!

# THE MONKEYS Monkeying around

The iconic band will be at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre on Tuesday. TICKET!, INSIDE TODAY



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THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016

Fort Wayne, Indiana

## Obama tries to debunk GOP on economy

The president went on a "myth-busting" mission Wednesday in Elkhart.

By JOSH LEDERMAN of The Associated Press

ELKHART — President Obama went on a "myth-busting" mission Wednesday aimed at undermining Republican arguments about the economy, working to give cover to Democrats to embrace his policies ahead of the presidential election. Officially, Obama came to this

hardscrabble town in northern Indiana to illustrate how steps he took in the first days of his presidency had ultimately paid off and pulled the economy back from the brink. Yet his rally at a high school in Elkhart blurred the lines between governing and campaigning, marking the president's most aggressive and direct foray to date into the roaring campaign to

replace him. "The primary story that Republicans have been telling about the economy is not supported by the facts. It's just not," Obama said. "They repeat it a lot, but it's not supported by the facts. But they say it anyway. Now why is that? It's because it has worked to get

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By The Associated Press President Obama gestures while speaking Wednesday at Concord Community High School in Elkhart.

## Trial begins for man accused of shooting at officer

The 26-year-old allegedly fired gun during foot chase.

By CINDY LARSON clarsonnews-sentinel.com

On Wednesday, the first day of Charles Antwon Benson's attempted murder trial in Allen Superior Court, the prosecution began meticulously constructing its case against the 26-year-old.

Benson is accused of shooting at Fort Wayne Police officer Robert Geiger on Jan. 30 after Geiger pulled over a car that Benson was riding in for a traffic violation near Lewis and Hanna streets. According to court documents, Benson got out of the car and started running east on Lewis and then north on Hanna. Geiger chased Benson on foot, and Benson allegedly shot at Geiger, who wasn't hit. Geiger returned fire at Benson, who wasn't hit either. Geiger caught Benson in the east-west alley north of Lewis.



On Wednesday jurors watched the in-car video taken from Geiger's car, which showed the events unfold, including a man running from the car who was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and a stocking hat. On Wednesday, prosecutors introduced into evidence a sweatshirt and stocking hat that matched the one being worn by the

See TRIAL, Page 9A

## EMPLOYEES, GUESTS PACK PLAZA



Photos by Breanna Daugherty of The News-Sentinel

Ash Brokerage employees line the balcony and stairs, while guests fill the atrium Wednesday before the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Ash Skyline Plaza for Ash Brokerage. Four years ago on the same date, Tim Ash, CEO of Ash Brokerage, shared his idea for a new national headquarters.

## Grand entrance

Ribbon-cutting completes the move of Ash Brokerage's national headquarters to downtown Fort Wayne

By BREANNA DAUGHERTY bdaughertynews-sentinel.com

Ash Brokerage employees lined the balcony, while guests filled the atrium to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Ash Skyline Plaza on Thursday to make their move to the company's new headquarters official. Four years ago to the day, Tim Ash, CEO of the family-operated insurance brokerage, shared his dream of building the national headquarters.

Mayor Tom Henry said during the ceremony that it had been a while since a headquarters was in downtown Fort Wayne, and went on to later call it a tremendous asset. He said it would spur future investments in the downtown area.

Part of the reason Ash decided to make the move was to give back to the community.

"There is no city in Ameri-



There are plans to include furniture for the north and south terraces. Some minor construction is still being finished in the Ash Brokerage national headquarters.

ca that's considered great that doesn't have a great downtown," Ash said.

The Ash Skyline Plaza will

bring a total of 435 jobs to downtown, 260 of which belong to

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## Politics mustn't get in the way of tax debate

For taxpayers' sake, officials should assess needs, cooperate.



JOHN CRAWFORD ADMITS the timing was bad, with a proposal for a new \$6.7 million-a-year wheel tax introduced mere days after he and other Republican City Council members rejected Democratic Mayor Tom Henry's planned annexation of 23 square miles, which would have netted the city

A column by KEVIN LEININGER

\$5 million annually. A Henry-appointed group of fiscal advisers had "already started looking at the wheel tax even before annexation was defeated (May 10)," said Crawford, R-at large. "This isn't 'Plan B.' The two are not related."

See LEININGER, Page 10A

## DeBrand still bringing 'excellence'

The "Fine Chocolate" boutique opened its fourth Fort Wayne location in Ash Skyline Plaza.

By RILEY MCCULLOUGH metronews-sentinel.com

With publicity of Ash Brokerage being moved into Ash Skyline Plaza came news of its other tenants, including DeBrand Fine Chocolates.

Since 1987, DeBrand has been providing a unique product to the Fort Wayne area. The newest store is the fourth in Fort Wayne, joining locations at Jefferson Pointe, Coldwater Road and Auburn Road. DeBrand products ship worldwide,

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### CONTACT US

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### WEATHER

7-DAY FORECAST, 9A  
MONTHLY WEATHER  
ALMANAC, PAGE 3L  
TONIGHT: Clear. Low: 56.  
Sunset at 9:08 p.m.  
FRI: Partly cloudy.  
HIGH 82 || LOW 59  
SAT: Chance of storms.  
HIGH 80 || LOW 60