

# FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD



Parkersburg Marietta	34 7	Ravenswood Roane County	59 26	Magnolia Tyler Consolidated	44 11	Wahama Eastern	69 0
Morgantown Parkersburg South	28 7	Doddridge County Calhoun County	26 8	Clay-Battelle Paden City	51 14	Fort Frye Waterford	24 0
Parkersburg Catholic St. Marys	20 14	Ritchie County Clay County	34 14	Athens Warren	19 14	Wirt County Gilmer (forfeit)	1 0

## The Parkersburg News and Sentinel

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 2011



Photos by Ashley Rittenhouse

Hundreds of people filled the streets of downtown Marietta Friday evening as the 36th annual Ohio River Sternwheel Festival kicked off. Live music, fireworks and a car show are a few of the things on tap for the festival.

# Sternwheel Festival

## Robinson remembered at opening ceremony

By ASHLEY RITTENHOUSE  
Special to The News and Sentinel

MARIETTA — The smell of popcorn and hot dogs, the sound of music and hundreds of people filled the streets of downtown Marietta Friday evening as the 36th annual Ohio River Sternwheel Festival kicked off.



While the atmosphere was upbeat, there were poignant moments during opening ceremonies of the festival Friday as memories of the festival's co-founder, Harry Robinson, were shared.

Robinson passed away in February at the age of 89. He was not only instrumental in the start of the festival but was also the driving force behind the event's pop-



The festival continues through Sunday, with the Harry J. Robinson Fireworks Show scheduled for 9:30 p.m. today and several musicians slated to perform both days.

ular fireworks show. "This is something he truly loved," Harry Robinson's grandson Ryan Robinson said during the opening ceremonies.

"He was determined the festival would grow and the fireworks would be the showcase of the Ohio River Sternwheel Festival," said Cheri Seever, director of

this year's festival. "We will work very hard to continue his legacy."

■ SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 8A

# Local officials vigilant for threats

By NATALEE SEELY  
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PARKERSBURG — While local officials have not been notified of any specific threats, they are heeding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's advice to be vigilant in the wake of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Parkersburg Mayor Bob Newell said the city government had not received warnings from Homeland Security, but that city security officials and local law enforcement were well aware of the recent "credible but unconfirmed" threat indicating a possible terrorist attack against the U.S., namely in New York City and Washington, D.C.



Newell

A U.S. official said Friday that spy networks intercepted communications from an al Qaeda operative indicating a possible vehicle bomb plot linked to the 10th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, which killed 2,995 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

"We are always watchful and vigilant, especially on the anniversaries of 9/11. With this being a big anniversary, we will be keeping our eyes open," said Newell.

In a statement by the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano Friday, she urged Americans to be on guard and said Homeland Security took all threat reports seriously.

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# Officials undaunted by terror threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Undaunted by talk of a new terror threat, New Yorkers and Washingtonians wove among police armed with assault rifles and waited with varying degrees of patience at security checkpoints Friday while intelligence officials scrambled to nail down information on a possible al-Qaida strike timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 9/11.



Obama

Counterterrorism officials have been working around the clock to determine whether the threat is accurate, and extra security was put in place to protect the people in the two cities that took the brunt of the jetliner attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon a decade ago. It was the worst terror assault in the nation's history, and al-Qaida has long dreamed



AP Photo

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, left, rides the subway to work Friday. Speaking Friday morning in the Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall subway station, Bloomberg said he had no new information about a terror threat to New York since his Thursday night public briefing with the head of the FBI's New York division. He said he hopes New Yorkers will go about their everyday business.

of striking again to mark the anniversary. But it could be weeks before the intelligence community can say whether this particular threat is real.

Security worker Eric Martinez wore a pin depicting the twin towers on his lapel as he headed to work in lower Manhattan on Friday where he also worked 10 years ago when the towers came down. "If you're going to be afraid, you're just going to stay home," he said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, too,

made a point of taking the subway to City Hall.

Briefed on the threat Friday morning, President Barack Obama instructed his security team to take "all necessary precautions," the White House said. Obama still plans to travel to New York on Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary with stops that day at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

■ SEE THREAT, PAGE 8A

# Wood Schools looks to hire investigator

School board to vote on position Tuesday

By MICHAEL ERB  
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PARKERSBURG — Wood County Schools plans to hire a former law enforcement officer to help investigate student and staff policy violations within the school system.

The Wood County Board of Education on Tuesday will be asked to approve a limited contract for Robert Vensel as a Wood County Schools "investigator." Vensel would be paid a \$1,500 retainer fee for the first 25 hours of work, then \$25 per hour after that up to \$6,000, according to dis-

trict officials.

If approved Tuesday, the contract window would be between Sept. 14 and Dec. 30, not to exceed 240 hours.

Bob Harris, assistant superintendent of personnel, said Vensel has a background in law enforcement. Vensel retired from the Parkersburg Police Department.

As the Wood County Schools investigator, Vensel would provide direction for and complete investigations of policy violations, train administrators in investigative techniques, work with local law enforcement, prosecutors and the state Department of Education's legal department, and to review and

■ SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 8A

### CONTACT US

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### MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

#### Schools hold 9/11 ceremonies

High school leaders called upon area students Friday to always remember and commemorate the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Parkersburg South High School held a brief ceremony Friday afternoon.

Details, Page 1C

#### Delegation reacts to Obama

Sen. Joe Manchin was critical of the president's jobs and economic plan unveiled Thursday. President Obama spoke to Congress about a \$450 billion jobs and economic development plan.

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