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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Irvine native releases new book, "The Copperhead Club"

An Irvine native who was a Washington D.C. correspondent for more than 40 years has released another book and will be at Michael's Restaurant in Ravenna this coming Sunday, December 6, 2015 to sign copies.

Bill Neikirk, who worked for the Associated Press and the Chicago Tribune, along with his wife, Ruth, will have 1st edition copies of his new book, "The Copperhead Club," for sale in hardback edition for \$20.00 each.

For more than 40 years, Bill Neikirk has earned a reputation as one of Washington's finest journalists, first for the Associated Press and then for the Chicago Tribune, where he covered politics, international economics, and, later, the White House. Now retired, the former Gridiron Club president has turned his talents to fiction-writing, producing a page-turner novel that combines a first-hand knowledge of how Washington works with a native Ken-

tuckian's understanding of mountain communities and a flair for mystery-writing. The book tells the story of a free-sending Washington socialite whose lobbyist husband's disappearance leads to the discovery of a mystery that fuels a major White House scandal and throws the presidential election into disarray. Critics say "The Copperhead Club" is a satisfying read, filled with intrigue, wry humor, and occasional real-life copperheads. "Bill Neikirk has given us a gem of a thriller here that has it all," says Mike McCurry, who was White House press secretary during the Clinton Administration from 1995 to 1998. "This novel tops the real story, and that's hard to do."

Bill, known in Irvine as "Bill Bob" was born January 6, 1938. Bill's father worked for the L&N Railroad during some very difficult economic times and his mother worked as the mother of twelve children. There were ten boys and two girls. The family felt the

sting of poverty, yet struggled through, as so many did during those times. His father died when he was 13, leaving six children still at home. It was a traumatic time for the family, but his mother, who completed the third grade, was masterful at raising her children and holding everything together. Many friends in Irvine also assisted the family. While his father's death was very traumatic to Bill and his siblings, it probably contributed to their ability to be self-sufficient and develop a great work ethic.

His family was an important factor in Bill's success in life. His sister Dorothy helped him learn to read before he entered school and his brothers encouraged him to excel in sports even though he feels that they were much better than he was.

He also attributes much of his professional success to his mentor and high school journalism teacher, Leslie Jones. **Continued on Page 14**



Irvine native Bill Neikirk and his wife, Ruth. Neikirk has just released his new book, "Copperhead Club" and will be in Ravenna at Michael's on Sunday for a signing and will have books available for sale. (Photo courtesy of Ruth Neikirk)

## Banks receives Eagle Scout award Sunday

After eight years in the Boy Scouts, one Estill County Scout has received Scouting's highest advancement rank, the Eagle Scout award.

Tyler Banks was presented with his Eagle Scout award during a ceremony Sunday afternoon at Calvary Baptist Church in West Irvine.

Banks has earned many Scout awards over the years, but this award was the most difficult to earn and most coveted.

He chose as his Eagle Scout award project, a community service project, to improve the Old Methodist Cemetery behind the Bed and Breakfast on Main Street. Joseph Proctor is buried there.

Other scouts also worked with Banks on the cemetery project. They leveled ground, filled in holes, moved rocks and debris, and sowed grass. **Continued on Page 14**



Tyler Banks takes the Scout oath during his Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on Sunday. In the background is Troop 89 Scout Leader Dr. James Hill.



Tyler Banks pinned the Mother of an Eagle Scout pin on his mother, Allyson, and a similar pin for his father, Dewayne Banks, during his Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on Sunday.

## Elizabeth Witt Christmas party, Kiwanis parade, arts & crafts show are on Saturday in Irvine

Downtown Irvine will be a busy place this coming Saturday with the 35th Annual Elizabeth Witt Christmas Party and Christmas Parade.

In the meantime, the Central Office gym will be filled with the works of more than 30 artisans during the Estill's Arts Council's 2015 Christmas Arts & Crafts Show.

The day begins with a parade that starts in Ravenna at 10:00 a.m. and proceeds down Broadway to the Irvine First Christian Church where the Christmas party will be held.

All groups; churches, fire departments, businesses and other organizations have been invited to participate in the parade with floats, bands, marching groups, antique cars and more. The most attractive floats will receive monetary prizes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Witt started her party in 1980 to make this a special day for the children of Estill County. Since her passing, the party committee continues to make this a memorable day for children with gifts and a visit with Santa Claus.

Also beginning at 10:00 a.m. will be Estill Arts Council's Christmas Arts & Crafts show at the Central Office gym. Local and area artists will be selling unique, handmade items including jewelry, artwork, Christmas items, agate, and much more. There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 pot where the winner gets half of the proceeds. A donation of \$1 or a can of food for the Estill County Food Bank will be accepted at the door.

Meanwhile, volunteer Salvation Army bell ringers will be busy at work at Price Less, Save-A-Lot and Stop & Shop grocery stores from 10:00 a.m. until 4 p.m.

### 2015 Estill Arts Council Christmas Arts & Crafts Show Artisans

- **Gene Abney** – antler pens/jewelry, barn wood crafts, woodcrafts made from native woods, corn hole games
- **Jennifer Arthur** – handmade jewelry
- **Darrell and Jane Ashley** – original artwork, handmade jewelry, painted items
- **Fred Asplen** – bells made from recycled items to create a unique tone, each one soothing to the ear and mind
- **Xyara Asplen** – leatherwork pouches, botanical hair adornments, bracelets, coin purses, jewelry from upcycled copper, seeds, stone, cloth shoulder bags, sun catchers
- **Allyson Banks/Shirley Bloodworth** – handmade wreaths, miniature Christmas trees, tree toppers, birdseed ornaments, Christmas card holders, Christmas décor
- **Becky Blevins** – handmade jewelry, handmade ornaments, Christmas accessories
- **Kristin Brake** – vintage inspired aprons, burlap purses and totes
- **Richelle Cox** – horseshoe art, bedspring crafts, burlap wreaths, mesh wreaths, tobacco stick crafts, wooden crafts
- **Tammy Cox** – leather pony tail holders, bridles, bracelets and other leather items
- **Deborah Davis** – handmade cloth dolls, handmade doll clothing for 18" dolls
- **Judy DeVary** – handmade jewelry and Christmas made items
- **Hannah Eaton** – lip balms, natural deodorants, body scrubs, body butters. (all organic, natural ingredients)
- **Lamon D. Flynn** – KY agate jewelry/belt buckles
- Pam Hedge -Alpaca fleece, felted soaps, felted dryer balls, felted hats, scarves, hats
- **Darrell Horn/Dee Arthur** – wooden toys, gourds, handmade figures
- **Irvine 1st Church of the Nazarene** – wrapped baked good items, Christmas wreaths and crafts
- **Mekeshia Jordan** – handmade accessories with a touch of country class, bows, and bullet jewelry
- **Pamela J. Kirby** – acrylic prints, Christmas deco, ornaments
- **Roland McIntosh** – KY agate items
- **Wathena McKinney** – jewelry, watercolor and oil prints
- **Luellis Patrick** – textile crafts, embroidery items, quilts, and candy, cupcakes
- **Crystal Renfro** – primitives
- **Robert Ruffner** – wood items
- **Ellen Shearer** – children's aprons, bibs, baby blankets, Christmas ornaments/crafts, embroidered items
- **Freda Stammer** – aprons, doll clothes, towels
- **Trish Steele** – upcycled, repurposed items, wire and paper crafts
- **Beth Thompson** – handmade jewelry from semi-precious stones and lampwork jewelry
- **Suzanne Waite** – handmade greeting cards, rubber stamped and embellished
- **Stephen/Diana Willis** – painted wooden peg people in a variety of characters

## Obituaries

**Nancy Bowling, 72**  
**Phyllis M. Carroll, 72**  
**Elizabeth Collins, 81**  
**Janice E. Conrad, 74**  
**Robert Jr. Cox, 76**  
**Norma J. Elliott, 71**  
**Minnie Goolman, 95**  
**Bonnie J. Henry, 78**  
**George Tincher, 45**  
**Laney A. Tipton, 9d**  
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