Barbara Elliott, Director of Public Relations  
221 George Street, Suite 2  
Beckley, WV  25801  
304-929-6727 (Phone)  
304-929-5478 (Fax)  

February 9, 2009

Decorative Iron Work Course offered by
New River Community and Technical College

[LEWISBURG, WV] New River Community and Technical College will offer an eight-week course in Decorative Iron Work taught by Jim Wells, artist blacksmith and biologist. Wells started blacksmithing more than 20 years ago. His interest arose from a love of working with wood, but when he found Iron he fell in love.

Over the course of more than 20 years Wells has owned several blacksmith shops ranging from a one-man operation to shops with five full-time workers. His current shop, where this course will be held, is located in the Lewisburg area. His life’s work is grounded in nature, and that influence is reflected in his ironwork.

The primary goal of this course is to have fun learning to do something decorative and artistic together as a group. Students will be introduced to the layout and function of tools in the blacksmith shop. The course will cover such topics as the history of decorative iron work, the forge, and basic iron working techniques. As students become proficient in all of these basic techniques, they will design and develop a material list for a project which they will complete and take home. These will include either a fireplace set, candelabra or candle chandelier. During this process of learning, students will study what it is that makes a piece of work high quality, and how to avoid pitfalls. If you would like to see examples of Well’s work, please visit his web site - www.jimwellsdecorativeiron.com.
This course will start April 1 and meet every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. for eight weeks. This is a fabulous course for anyone wanting to learn a rewarding new hobby from a very old art form. Call (304) 872-4520 for more information on this course. Class size is limited by the number of work stations available and pre-registration is required.

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