New River Community and Technical College will offer a six-week course in Decorative Iron Work taught by Jim Wells. This course will start Oct. 31 and meet every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. for six weeks. This is a fabulous course for anyone wanting to learn a rewarding new hobby from a very old art form.

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 interest arose from an enjoyment of working with wood, but when he discovered iron he fell in love.

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. The choices are 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.

“Jim is great,” says former student Terri Shuck who has been helping him in the forge, “He’s so good. His work is incredible – the detail he does is incredible.”

Call (304) 647-6570, (304) 793-6101 or (304) 872-4520 for more information on this course. Class size is limited by the number of work stations available. Pre-registration is required. If you would like to see examples of Wells’s work, please visit his website, www.jimwellsdecorativeiron.com.

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