NEW RIVER OFFERS BEGINNING BLACKSMITHING COURSE

[LEWISBURG, WV] New River Community and Technical College will offer a six-week course in beginning blacksmithing starting Oct. 23. The instructor is artist and blacksmith Jim Wells. The class will meet from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays at Wells’s workshop and forge adjacent to his home in the Stonehenge subdivision near Caldwell, W. Va.

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. If you would like to see examples of Well’s work, please visit his web site, www.jimwellsdecorativeiron.com.

This beginning course covers basic blacksmithing techniques including drawing out (stretching), upsetting, bulging out, scrolling and twisting. The basics of setting up a blacksmith shop, the tools needed,
safety measures and maintenance of tools also will be covered. Each student will complete a project of his choosing during the course. Power tools are not used during this introductory course.

A maximum of eight students will be enrolled to ensure that each student has one-on-one time with the instructor. Wells will be assisted by two advanced students from his decorative ironworks class, Terri Shuck and Doug Green.

This is a rewarding course for anyone wanting to learn a new hobby from a very old art form. Call (304) 872-4520 for more information on this course. Pre-registration is required.

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Photo Caption: Terri Shuck, a student in Jim Well’s intermediate decorative ironworks class, shows off a picket for a gate she has made of metal crafted to look like weathered wood. The gate also will feature leaves and grapes fabricated from iron. Shuck will assist instructor Jim Wells in the upcoming beginning blacksmith course being offered by New River Community and Technical College.