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Hospice ceremony set

FROM STAFF REPORTS
 Hospice of Southern West Virginia will join with the community at 1:30 p.m. Friday for the annual Light Up A Life Angel Tree ceremony to remember loved ones who've passed and the special mark each made upon the world.

As usual, the trees are located at the Belk end of Crossroads Mall.

Families, friends and Hospice employees will gather to place lace-trimmed angels bearing their loved ones' names on either of two trees representing the four counties served by Hospice — Raleigh, Fayette, Summers and Wyoming.

Ellen File, a surviving daughter, will share her thoughts with those who have also experienced the loss of someone significant to them. Other special guests include the St. Francis de Sales School choir under the direction of Gerry Sibray. Refreshments will be served.

"Everyone has an opportunity to come and put a little extra memory out about someone they dearly love and miss. It brings tears, but it also brings happiness," Hospice of Southern West Virginia board president Pat Earehart said.

Adding to this year's event is the unveiling of a first-edition butterfly keepsake ornament, a globe embossed with original art by longtime Hospice volunteer Margie Owens.

Plans are to feature annually a different portrayal of a butterfly upon the ornament since the image embodies the changes and beauty characteristic of life. The ornaments are also a way for families served by Hospice to keep a symbol to place on their own Christmas trees honoring the importance of times shared together, even through terminal illness.

Angels are available at the ceremony for a \$10 donation and will remain on the Hospice trees throughout the holiday season. Collectable ornaments are an additional \$10 donation.

All money generated by the event returns to Hospice to help afford future patients the care they need in battling terminal illness once curative measures are exhausted.

Hospice helps individuals focus on quality of life and quality of time in facing the end of their lives. The organization is a strong advocate for a patient's right to make choices and maintain a voice in his or her plan of care.

For more information on the Angel Tree ceremony or Hospice, call 304-255-6404 or visit www.hospiceofsouthernwv.org.





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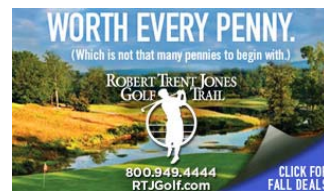
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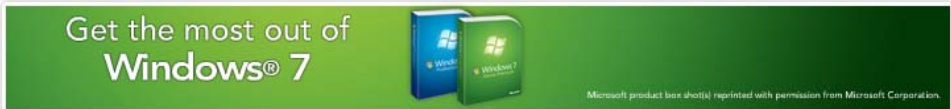
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