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**NMMC-WEST POINT WELLNESS CENTER
TO OPEN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS**

WEST POINT, Miss.—The North Mississippi Medical Center-West Point Wellness Center announces the opening of the Academy of Performing Arts in April.

Free classes in jazz and hip-hop dance for ages 3 and older will be offered between 3:30-7 p.m. Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24. Students will be assigned a class time based on their age level, and each class lasts one hour. Every child who participates will be entered into a drawing for several door prizes.

After-school and evening dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop will begin the week of April 26. Call (662) 494-1113 or stop by 851 Medical Center Circle for class times and fees. Wellness Center member, multiple class and sibling discounts are available.

The instructor is Betty Deans, who began dance training at age 5 in ballet, jazz, lyrical, clogging, pointe, tap and hip-hop. Deans has 18 years of dance training and has danced professionally for 14 of those years.

Taking the stage professionally at age 9 in Branson, Mo., Deans has shared the stage with entertainers including Andy Williams, Debbie Boone, Jim Stafford, Bobby Vinton, Jerry Van Dkye, Shoji Tabuchi, Dino, Kirby VanBurch and Taylor Reed. She has performed in Country Tonite's award-winning show at Silver Dollar City and on Mississippi Love. From performing on the open seas on the Royal Caribbean cruise line to a soloist and featured adagio, her career includes both stage performances and worldwide television specials and commercials.

Before forming the Academy of Performing Arts in West Point, she taught dance classes to all ages at Branson Performing Arts Academy and at the YMCA in Branson.