



Business Spotlight

Kelli's Steps School of Dance

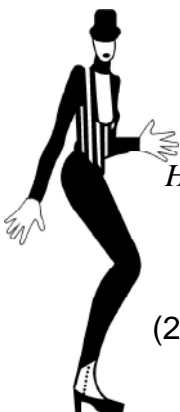
By: Kayla Riegler

Kelli's Steps School of Dance is home to some of the rising talent here in Vanceleave. Kelli Dickens has been dancing for close to forty years and has been training young performers all over the coast for twenty-nine of those.

Kelli opened her first dance studio when she was nineteen years old out of a garage and currently has dance studios in Biloxi and Vanceleave. She started planning the studio in Vanceleave in 2003. When Hurricane Katrina put the Biloxi studio temporarily out of business, the Vanceleave studio quickly came to be.

Kelli's Steps offer classes in jazz, tap, ballet, hip hop and other performance arts. She tries to set her studio and performances apart from others by creating the allusion of a broad way show for the audience; her students are giving side lessons in stage performance so it's not just a recital, it is the full package.

Kelli and her performers have received many awards and honors throughout the years including representing the state of Mississippi at the Dance Excellence for the Performing Arts in California.



Kelli's Steps School of Dance

Home of the International Award Winning
"Kelli's Showstoppers"

Biloxi
(228) 388-1616

Vanceleave
(228) 826-0606

Director – Kelli Dickens

Kelli's dedication to her passion and sharing it with her students has earned her the 2007 Dance Education Teacher of the Year and the key of Biloxi.

Dickens is very active in the communities and community service among Vanceleave and the coast; the studio has put on the Christmas show for the Vanceleave Merchant's Association and has participated in the Vanceleave parades.

Kelli's love for dance has lead her to become a part of S.T.E.P.S (Supporters To Encourage Performing Stars) which is a non-profit organization that gives scholarships to performers along the gulf coast to train in the performing arts; the organization holds global workshops and has special appearances from celebrities like the dancers of Hannah Montana.

For more information visit www.kellisstepsschoolofdance.com
Kayla Riegler is a Senior at VHS and plans to attend USA to study journalism.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

- **May 8 – 10** – 3rd Annual Bluff Creek Bluegrass Festival, Conrad Mallette Multipurpose Arena
- **May 10** – Vanceleave Pebble Bluff Creek Antique Car Show & Fireman Appreciation, 10 am – 2 pm, Community Gazebo, contact Perry Meyers - 826-5792, Deanna Cole Bickham – 826-5121 or J. P. Fero – 826-1990
- **First Monday of Each Month** - Vanceleave Garden Club, Vanceleave Library 9:30 am. For information call: Rose Rodzos at 826-0990
- **May 22** – **VMA After Hours** O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home 6-8 pm. Contact Helen Cramer - 990-0133 Jim Ramsay Rd.

News & Notes....

After Hours, Italian Style

The April VMA After Hours was hosted by Dani Rodriquez and Papa Roni's. It was a great evening on the patio under the setting sun. Thank you to Dani and her staff for wonderful food, great company, and a night of fellowship.



Right: Tom Harper, Host Danie Rodriquez & Doc Morrison.

Left: VMA After Hours coordinator Helen Cramer and her husband Thomas.



Vanceleave Resident Named to "Top 10 Under 40"

Tom Wade, a member of the Vanceleave Volunteer Fire Department, was recently named to the Top 10 Business Leaders Under 40 by The Sun Herald and Journal of South Mississippi Business.



Wade is a 1995 graduate of MSU and has worked as a project manager for several companies. In 2004, he became the first person to take and pass the fire protection engineering licensing exam in Mississippi and was a member of the design team that won the 2006 John Wesley Powell Prize for Historic Preservation for the project to renovate and reconstruct the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and Museum.

Today, Wade is a partner in Gulf States Engineering and helped grow the firm from three people in one office to a major engineering firm with offices in Mississippi and Alabama. He is also owner of TRT Holdings, a real estate holding company, and a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Vanceleave Volunteer Fire Department.

Welcome New Members for 2008

Advance Auto Parts

Byers American TaeKwondo Academy

Coles Drive-Inn

DSLByAir

First Federal

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Joe West Realty

Ralph King Jr. Builder

West Stone LLC

2008 – 2009 VMA Officers Named



Left to Right: Dr. Jeffrey Morrison, Vice President; J.P. Fero, President; Deanna Cole Bickham, Secretary; and Lester Mitchell, Treasurer.

www.thevma.org

Visit our NEW website. Check back often as we make changes to bring you the latest happenings of the VMA. Thanks to GCIS for sponsoring this site.

2008-2009 VMA Board

President J.P. Fero, Vanceleave Family Medical Clinic

Vice President Dr. Jeffery Morrison, Morrison Animal Clinic

Treasurer Lester Mitchell, Hancock Bank

Secretary Deanna Cole, Cole's Service Center & Coles Drive-In

Board Members

Sue Bennett, Florist At Heart & Burnhams

Gene Edwards, Agape Termite Services

Allen Williams, AllWill Management, Inc.



3rd Annual Vanceleave Fireman's Appreciation Day & Pebble Bluff Creek Car Show



Sponsored by the
Vanceleave Merchants Association

Saturday – May 10, 2008

10:00 am till 2:00 pm

Held at the Vanceleave Community Gazebo (Vanceleave HS Grounds)
Hwy 57 North

* Antique Cars and Vehicles of Interest * Food and drinks * Split the Pot *
* Temptation Racing Demonstration * Large Yard Sale *

Registration 8 am – 11 am
Judging starts at 11:30am
Presentation of Awards 2:00 pm
Peoples Choice Award

1st & 2nd Place Trophies:
Retro Rod
Pre 64
Post 64

Thank you to our participating Sponsors

Coles Drive Inn * Coles Service Center * Dahl's NAPA Auto Parts * Discount Pawn * Dr. Edward Banas, DDS
First Federal * GCIS * Hancock Bank * HP Davis Grocery * Integrity Insurance * Lane Construction * Metro Concrete
O'Bryant/O'Keefe Funeral Home * RSP Graphics * Sav-Rex Drugs * Southern Lift
Stormy Hurricane Shutters * Wachovia Bank * West Stone LLC

Visit www.thevma.org for more info

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Vehicle Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

Club Affiliation _____

Registration only for Vehicles to be Judged

Early Registration Fee \$25.00 – Additional Car \$15.00 Must be received by April 30, 2008
Day of Event - \$30.00 – Additional Car \$20.00

Goody bags will be given with \$5.00 food voucher – One per vehicle while supplies last

Send Registration Form with payment to VMA – P.O. Box 5504, Vanceleave, MS 39565.

Entrants and participants by execution to the entry form release and discharge VMA and anyone else connected with the VMA from any and all known causes whatever that may be suffered by any participant to his or her person or property.

To Participate or for further information – contact
Perry Meyers - 826-5792, Deanna Cole Bickham – 826-5121 or J. P. Fero – 826-1990

Visit these Vancleave Merchants Association Members for all your personal and business needs!

AUTOMOTIVE

Advance Auto Parts 826-3900
 Coles Service Center * + 826-5121
 Dahl's NAPA Auto Parts 826-5762
 Meyer's Auto Salvage 826-5792
 Professional Auto Collision 826-2387

CHURCHES

First Pentecostal Church of Vancleave
 Holy Spirit Catholic Church 826-4008

CONSTRUCTION, SERVICES & HARDWARE

BMT Electric 826-1133
 Coast Water Well Services 826-9275
 Jesse's Concrete 826-2721
 Lane Construction * 872-2414
 Metro Concrete * 872-2028
 Ralph King, Builder 826-4429
 Stormy Hurricane Shutters * 238-3298
 Vancleave Glass 826-1540
 Vancleave Lumber 826-4211
 Vancleave Plumbing 826-1700
 West Stone, LLC * 217-0380

DINING

Coles Drive Inn * 826-5909
 Mohler's Donut Hut 826-9138
 Subway 826-0020

DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY SERVICES

Vancleave Dry Cleaners 826-5768

FINANCIAL

First Federal * 826-9130
 Hancock Bank * 934-4348
 Noblitt & Associates, Inc + 826-3600
 Wachovia Bank * 826-5911

GOVERNMENT

Jackson County Chancery Clerk 769-3499

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Burnham Drugs #4 826-4747
 Sav-Rex Drugs * 826-4403

INSURANCE

Integrity Insurance Providers * 826-3530

MEDICAL

Dr. Edward J Banas DDS * + 826-3811
 Vancleave Chiropractic 826-9977
 Vancleave Family Medical Clinic + 826-1990

PEST CONTROL

Agape Termite Services 826-3123

REAL ESTATE

Helen Cramer, Realtor 990-0133
 Joe West Realty 497-3797
 Vancleave Real Estate + 826-1999

RECREATION

Byers TawKwondo Academy 826-9908
 Joleen's Starz Performing Arts Studio 826-3722
 Kelli's Step School of Dance 388-1616

RETAIL / RENTAL STORES

Bluff Creek Equipment Rental 826-1414
 Discount Pawn * 826-4556
 Florist At Heart - Sues 826-4421
 H.P. Davis Grocery * 826-5275

SPECIALTIES

AllWill Management 826-3434
 Blossman Gas & Appliance 826-5997
 Digital Security Systems 218-9988
 DSLByAir Internet Services 831-8881
 Eagle 2 Graphics 826-9457
 GCIS * 826-5832
 O'Bryant – O'Keefe Funeral Home * 826-4311
 RSP Graphics * 826-1277
 Sound Escapes 217-2627
 Southern Lift, Inc * 826-5257
 The Sod Outlet 826-5555

VETERINARIANS

Morrison Animal Clinic 826-4833

*Sponsor Members of the VMA

+ Charter Members of the VMA

Important contact numbers for Jackson County Residents

DRIVERS LICENSE – Must apply within 60 days

Biloxi/D'Iberville 392-1183
 Pascagoula 769-3266

AUTO REGISTRATION – Must apply within 30 days

Ocean Springs 872-8179
 Pascagoula 769-3074
 West Jackson County (St. Martin) 872-8178

TAX COLLECTOR

769-3074
 769-3200

VANCLEAVE SCHOOLS

Elementary (K-2) 826-5982
 Upper Elementary (3-5) 826-4581
 Middle School (6-8) 826-5902
 High School (9-12) 826-4701
 Jackson County School District Admin 826-1757

HOSPITALS

Ocean Springs Hospital 818-1111
 Singing River Hospital 809-5000
 Biloxi Regional Hospital 432-1571
 Poison Control 800-222-1222