

Business Snapshot

A quick glance at our local businesses



Teri Desrosiers

Dancin' up a storm on Main Street

Since she was 4 years old, Teri Desrosiers has had a dream. That dream is now a reality.

The owner of the Salem Dance Network on Main Street (upstairs from Salem Laundry), Desrosiers dedicated her life to dancing. She began at age 3, started working as an assistant teacher when she was 12, and started teaching her own classes when she was 16.

By the time 1993 rolled around, Desrosiers felt pretty experienced — enough so to open the Salem Dance Network. During 1993, Desrosiers was enrolled as a student at Northern Essex Community College; however, she said that opening the

studio was the opportunity she was waiting for.

Like the old adage says, sometimes you need to give a little to gain a lot. And Desrosiers feels she truly has gained a lot.

"I get to touch the lives of so many children, and that's an awesome responsibility because it's so influential," Desrosiers said.

Desrosiers's father, Del, played a major role in her life.

"He was just so amazing—he was very supportive," she said. "He offered me advice and gave me insight on how to succeed as a dance teacher. He always said, 'You can teach the kids anything if

Please see **DANCE** page 17

DANCE: 'Excite them'

► Continued from page 6

'you excite them,' and 'Find music that grabs the audience's attention'. He always used to show up with popscles for my students during break time. He was so awesome."

At the studio, Desrosiers teaches children from 3 years old to adults in ballet, tap and jazz; she choreographs, acts as the artistic director and the janitor, does lots of bookwork, takes kids to master classes and conventions, invites teachers from master classes into the studio, and helps teach her students the ropes.

While Desrosiers loves what she does for a living, she does face some hardships.

"The most difficult part of my job is dealing with kids that have a lot of other extracurricular activities, because scheduling becomes a big problem," she said. "However, there is nothing like aiding a struggling student and watching it all click for them — knowing that I played a role in them understanding moves better is just unbelievable."

by
**JADD
NAAMAN**
Observer Intern

SALEM OBSERVER J

Guest artist



Courtesy photo

Lisa Rizzone, who studied ballet at the Robin Adair School of Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre School in New York, joined the students of the Salem Dance Network Sunday morning for an intensive dance lesson. Rizzone is featured in the center of the photograph.

Tribune 4/13/05