



Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KEITZER

Ten-year-old Abby Traxler, of Lewistown, takes dance lessons at Studio Thirty-two in Mifflintown.

# Tiny dancer Abby Traxler is already in the spotlight

By **MONIQUE DREW**  
Sentinel reporter

In pink satin pointe shoes, skin-tone tights and a mauve leotard stood a four and a half foot blonde beauty ready to take over the world of arts. Ten-year-old Abby Traxler will start that takeover with dance.

Officially Abby has been dancing for close to three years, but Abby's mother, Karla Traxler, says whenever music was played in the kitchen, Abby would start dancing.

"She had an ability that we needed to find some training," Karla says.

So Abby began dancing at

Stephanie's Dance School, Lewistown, where she danced for a year. Then, in June of 2009, Abby was enrolled into the Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts. The family-oriented dance studio in State College provides training in ballet, tap, jazz and other areas.

Abby took a six-week summer combo course of ballet and tap. Karla says after Abby took the course, it was definitely noticed that a talent was there. The following fall semester, due to Abby's progress, she moved on to several more ballet and tap classes.

"She was progressing through the levels pretty quickly," Karla says.

Academy owner Sarah Mason sec-

onded that motion.

Mason told Karla that lots of moms *claim* their children are very talented. Not to worry.. The teacher assured her that Abby is the real deal. .

"It's just a part of her," Karla says. "She feels it and that's just how she expresses herself."

Abby went on to take classes in pointe prep, Irish step dance and musical theater.

"Any class that Sarah offered," Karla says, Abby took.

But after conflicting schedules and

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— Karla Traxler,  
Abby's mother