

# The DALLAS POST

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Joanne Hummel, of Shavertown, gets into the beat during line dancing class at the Harveys Lake American Legion Hall.



Carol Layaou, of Dallas, dons a cowboy hat for Harveys Lake American Legion line dancing.



Judy Stephens, of Wilkes-Barre, shows her line dancing moves in hot pink boots.



Instructor Dave Zimmerman, of Dallas, demonstrates line dancing to 'Elvira' at the Harveys Lake American Legion Hall.

## Boot scootin' in Harveys Lake

American Legion Hall is site of line dancing classes very Thursday night.

By SUSAN DENNEY  
Dallas Post Correspondent

"Hate the gym, love the dance."

Linda Festa  
Line dancer from Shavertown

Picture a scene with cowboy boots, blue jeans, longnecks and loud country/western music.

Now picture the second floor of the Harveys Lake American Legion Hall.

Every Thursday night at 7 p.m., the Harveys Lake American Legion Dance Class turns the second floor of the hall into a place where a Texan would feel right at home.

The dance group is led by Dave Zimmerman, of Dallas, who says he's been dancing for 47 years. Zimmerman teaches country/western line dancing to the group.

Line dancing is partnerless and there is no contact between

dancers. An uneven number of men and women makes no difference. And judging by the range of ages in Zimmerman's group, line dancing is for everyone.

According to Zimmerman, the group has been in existence for five years and performs regularly, its last performance being at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre on Jan. 6. He says the group has over 60 members but a usual Thursday night class attracts from 12 to 22 dancers.

Zimmerman runs the group because, "It's good exercise."

But the enthusiasm of his

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## Her mom's memory will live on at MMR Jr. Prep

By SARAH HITE  
Dallas Post Correspondent

### FOR MORE INFO

**What:** MMR Jr. Prep, a daycare facility for children ages 2 and older  
**Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 1003-1007 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort  
**Contact:** Carla Reino, 763-5071  
mmrjrprep@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/mmrjrprepllc

The younger of two children, 24-year-old Carla Reino had a career in the financial field after earning degrees in marketing and finance. But after a brief stint working with children, daddy's little girl has grown up and started her own business.

MMR Jr. Prep, a daycare facility for pre-school and school-age children, was the brainchild of Reino's mother, Margaret M. Reino, who died in May 2011, after battling cancer.

The facility's initials, MMR, are the same as Carla's late mother's initials, whom she credits with inspiring her to make a change and work with children.

"I love kids, and she always said I should be working with kids," said Carla, of Shavertown. "I was working at a bank before my mother died and it just wasn't fun anymore. I thought I should enjoy going to work."

Carla said she and her father,

James Reino Jr., looked for months for a building to house the budding business. The building they eventually found, located on Wyoming Avenue in Forty Fort, was a perfect fit for the facility - in more ways than one.

"The man who owns the building, his daughter was best friends with my wife," said James. "And the building was more than perfect."

After purchasing the building in late November, Carla and her father worked hard to renovate it or the Jan. 18 opening date.

"She painted everything herself," James said, showing off the jungle-themed facility. Each room has its own animal theme, from zebra stripes and leopard spots in the older students' room to hand-painted gorillas and canopy trees in the play room.

"My staff and I all like animal print so that's how we came up with the theme," said Carla.



Owner Carla Reino, right, of Shavertown, talks about her new daycare as her dad James Reino looks on at MMR Jr. Prep School in Forty Fort.

Carla said the facility is different than other daycare centers in the area because children are moving from one room to another during the day, instead of staying in one spot.

The staff teaches classes on

subjects like math, science, art and music, and the youngsters have the option to learn with the latest technology or through playtime - like in the imagination room, where there's a stage and plenty of

props.

"Playing dress up is their favorite thing to do," Carla said of her 20 students.

And those business degrees she acquired aren't going to waste, either - the young entre-

preneur runs every aspect of the business herself while still finding time to interact with the children.

"I can tell you, when she comes home now, she's the happiest I've ever seen her," said James. "I don't need to get a condo (in the south). I'd rather invest in my daughter. I'm very proud of the woman she's become."

Carla said the facility maintains a calm and fun atmosphere that promotes healthy social interaction.

"We have small class sizes so kids can get that one-on-one attention," she said. "We're all about being calm. We don't think yelling does anything, and we try to guide the students to do the right thing and understand, if they did something wrong, why it's wrong."

The building also features a state-of-the-art security system featuring video cameras and locks which require a special key fob to be opened. Carla said parents are given their own key fobs to access the building, and the system records times and dates of when the building is accessed.

"(Security) was one of the most important things we talked about before we ever opened," said James, who was a youth sports coach for 30 years

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