



## ACES OF TRADES: Zoomers Skate Club carries on a family tradition

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Kandy Yarger, the owner and operator of Zoomers Skate Club, is pictured running a skate night Oct. 21 with her husband, Don Yarger. *Sophia Veneziano*

She grew up around the business but took a very different path — for a time. She's Kandy Yarger, owner and operator of Zoomers Skate Club.

"I could skate from the age of 2," Yarger explained. "So I was born and raised in this business. I worked for both my grandparents and my parents in both the roller-skating business, miniature golf course business and the swimming pool. I really didn't have a desire to go into the business but, whenever they needed me, I would jump in and help out."

Instead, she pursued the real estate business. First with her own title company, then selling real estate, then with ODOT in their real estate offices.

"I loved that job," she said. "It covered the whole northwest section of the state, so a lot of drive time was involved. My husband [Don Yarger], on the other hand, pursued his career in the bank where they made him the sole collector for the entire state of Ohio. In fact, he was the banker who foreclosed on the rink in 1987. Little did he know, he would be creating his own destiny down the road."

Then 2000 rolled around.

"My husband went a different direction," Yarger continued, "and commuted to Columbus to work in the offices for a trucking company. And my father [Arthur Denis] passed away. The attorney contacted my husband and I with regards to what we wanted to do with the estate — if we wanted to go into the business. We thought about it, and we decided to both quit our jobs and take the plunge!"

"I knew I would be good at the operational end of the business since I had been around it my entire life," Yarger noted. "And I knew my husband was mechanically inclined and could also handle the business end. With my passion and his desire to continue my dad's legacy, we've pushed on through thick and thin."

"Two things that are very important when starting a business are passion and a drive to succeed," she emphasized. "Between the two of us, we had this formula for success."

"Kandy is a hard worker!" assessed co-worker Kary Kline. "She works hard trying to give kids a healthy and safe place to exercise and have fun so they are not running the streets. Kandy has even taught my 5-year-old to skate backwards as she is an amazing skater herself!"

"I say Marion is blessed to have a skating rink," Kline added. "They're hard to find anymore!"

"I do have a passion for this business," Yarger responded. "I think it's a very important asset to the town for keeping people young and fit, for socializing, and for keeping kids off the streets. But mainly, for creating memories for people. We wouldn't change anything."

Zoomers Skate Club is located at 1683 Marion Mt. Gilead Rd. in Marion. For more information, call 740-389-5554 or log on [zoomersskateclub.com](http://zoomersskateclub.com).

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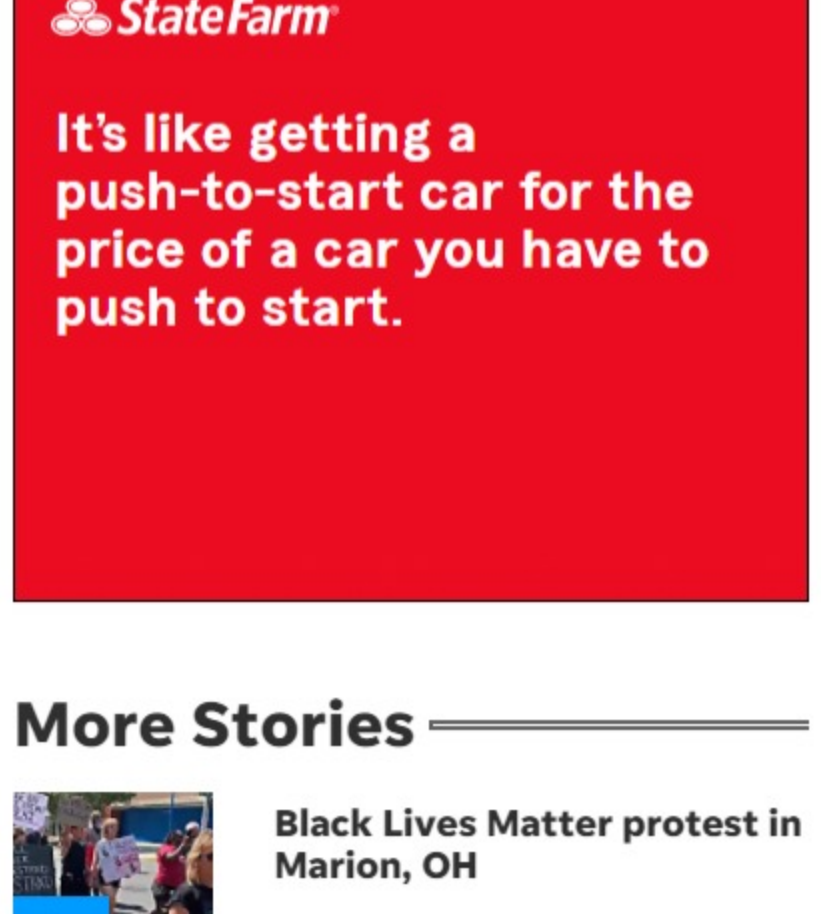
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