



COLIN MURPHEY PHOTOS

From left: Norma Hernandez, Jason Schermerhorn and Julie Fluse practice salsa dancing.

tions, The Harbor jumped on the opportunity.


Hernandez, who serves on several boards and is involved in various fundraisers, feels that, especially for The Harbor, it's "good to do something that is not too somber," but creates space for happiness, hope and taking "a little vacation" from issues that are important but can be emotionally draining.

As for the dancing, she isn't worried about her routine being perfect or tripping and falling, since the competitors are friends, neighbors and coworkers.

"We're just being silly with our friends for a great cause" – although she has jokingly warned her fellow competitors she may "go Tonya Harding on all of them."

Proceeds will support The Harbor in providing survivor services and maintaining their confidential emergency shelter, which was recently reopened in June.

While raising money, the event also will heighten awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault. From a law enforcement perspective, Schermerhorn said, The Harbor is "a great resource and asset" when it comes to providing advocacy and trauma-informed care for survivors.

"They give that voice to the victim," he said. "These advocates help them to get resources and safety and security for their families to protect them. I think that's invaluable in our society." 



From left: Dane Gouge, Arline LaMear and Dida DeAngelis hold up score cards during a rehearsal of Dancing with the Clatsop County Stars.